Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-120 *22 June 1995*

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Palestinian Affairs

'Masked Gunmen' Reportedly Shoot Islamic Leader

NC2206085395 Paris AFP in English 0805 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, June 22 (AFP)—Masked gunmen shot dead Thursday [22 June] a leader of the hardline Islamic Jihad in the al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza City, the movement said, blaming the killing on the Israeli secret service.

Mahmud al-Khawajah, 34, was sprayed with 10 bullets as three men drove past in a car when he was walking to his work with the UN refugee programme UNWRA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East] in the camp, Jihad leaders in Gaza said.

Two gunmen in the back seat of a blue Peugeot 404 fired pistols fitted with silencers hitting al-Khawajah in the head and the chest, witnesses said.

In Damascus the movement's head Fathi al-Shaqaqi accused the Israeli secret service Mosad of the killing and threatened to take revenge.

"The Mosad this morning killed one of the most important leaders of the Islamic Jihad in Gaza, firing several bullets at his head and body from guns fitted with silencers," he told AFP.

"The Israelis have no intention of leaving the Gaza Strip in order to spread death and fear there, but the Islamic Jihad will not stand idle in the face of this new crime."

Al-Khawajah was taken to the Al-Shifa' hospital in Gaza after the shooting where he was confirmed dead, hospital officials said. [passage omitted]

Jihad's al-Shaqaqi: Suicide Attacks To Continue

JN2206083995 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 22 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Fathi al-Shaqaqi, an Islamic Jihad official who resides in Syria, has threatened that suicide operations against Israel will continue, especially since all the elements of this Islamic Palestinian movement are inside the occupied territories and can resume their activities any time.

Al-Shaqaqi added: We know how difficult it is to launch attacks from the Syrian border. We also realize that the Syrians are going to sign a peace agreement with Israel. They may even order us to leave. Therefore, we should find another place. This, however, does not mean that jihad against Israel will stop.

Al-Shaqaqi pointed out that Israel has given 'Arafat Gaza and Jericho and may give him some other regions, but it will not give him back the occupied territories. If we do not continue to fight, he said, this means our rights will be lost, especially since the Arab regimes have recognized Israel.

'Arafat's Adviser: Talks Facing 'Critical' Stage

JN2106145295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's media adviser and official spokesman, has said that Palestinian-Israeli negotiations — especially at this important stage which looks into the tasks of implementing the second part of the Declaration of Principles — are going through a critical and sensitive stage. He added that this stage requires giving the Palestinian negotiator full freedom in seeking the best conditions for its implementation.

Mr. Kanafani noted that continuous statements by some Palestinian officials, which add nothing new in this regard, are doing nothing now but exhaust the Palestinian negotiator and divert his attention from focusing on his arduous task in the face of Israeli procrastination and intransigence.

'Arafat, King Husayn Discuss Israel Negotiations

JN2106183895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat today received a telephone call from King Husayn of Jordan. The telephone conversation addressed the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations against the backdrop of the approach of the 1 July deadline for concluding talks on the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles.

'Arafat Joins Sit-In in Solidarity With Detainees

JN2106134895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has joined hundreds of fasting people who this morning staged a sit-in at the Red Cross headquarters in Gaza in solidarity with the detainees in occupation prisons. All Palestinian cities, villages, and camps witnessed sit-ins and marches. Meanwhile, citizens throughout the Palestinian territories went on a day of fasting in solidarity with the detainees.

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'Urayqat Interviewed on Prisoners, Negotiations

NC2206082495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0420 GMT 22 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, PA minister of local government, in Gaza, by Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab, in Cairo—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-Tawwab] Mr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government with the Palestinian Authority [PA], welcome to our radio.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] The question of Palestinian prisoners [in Israeli jails] is now a topical issue. A popular Palestinian conference, sit-ins, and hunger strikes will be organized in solidarity with the prisoners. There is also full Arab and international support. Moreover, a report by the committee defending prisoners says they are in very bad condition. Yet, the Israeli foreign minister says that the Declaration of Principles does not address the question of the prisoners, and he says the Palestinians and the Israelis should hold negotiations on this issue. Is this not a falsehood, Mr. 'Urayqat?

['Urayqat] Yes, of course. It is one of many falsehoods. Peres' statement clearly indicates that the Israeli Government is using our brothers and sisters in Israeli jails as a pressure card and is even trying to treat them as hostages for blackmail. The Declaration of Principles, which was signed in Washington, stated in its preamble that the objective of the peace process is to turn over a new leaf and start a historic reconciliation between the two peoples. The Israeli Government realizes that the brothers and sisters behind Israeli bars implemented instructions given by His Excellency President 'Arafat when there was a conflict between the PLO and Israel. Now Rabin is shaking hands and signing agreements with President 'Arafat. It is inconceivable that you do this with the one who gave the instructions and leave those who implemented the instructions behind bars. The Cairo Declaration clearly stated that 5,000 detainees would be released within five weeks and the rest weeks later. But Israel continues to procrastinate.

We tell our brothers and sisters in Israeli detention camps that theirs is the issue of every individual Palestinian and Arab and that it enjoys great international attention. This is the key to the peace process. We are not heading toward a truce or a cease-fire, but toward peace. If this peace was real, and if it was the peace of the brave, then those brothers and sisters should have been released many months ago.

During the current negotiations, three issues are deeply dividing the Palestinian and Israeli positions. These are: The redeployment of the Israeli forces, the release of the detainees, and the participation of Jerusalem citizens in the elections. What Israel is proposing on all these issues is out of line with the Declaration of Principles.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Mr. 'Urayqat, what is Israel's interest in offering so many falsehoods?

['Urayqat] Perhaps Rabin wants to compete with the Israeli right wing for local Israeli considerations. He may be thinking this way, but he is wrong. If we look at the Cairo agreement, we will find that many points agreed upon and signed—such as the safe corridors, travel, international crossing points, transfer of commodities, release of detainees, and scores of other issues—have not been implemented. Take the issue of closure: Over the past year, and since the Cairo Declaration was signed, Israel closed Jericho and Gaza for 188 days, the longest period since 1967. Rabin thinks this will strengthen his position in the Israeli arena. On the contrary, Rabin is embarrassing the PA and disregarding the most fundamental concepts of the peace process. So far, he has been acting as a prime minister who already lost the election, not as one who is about to lose it. In his extremism and stubbornness, Rabin cannot compete with the Israeli right wing. But regrettably, the current situation in the peace process and the huge gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions are results of these unjustifiable practices by the Israeli Government.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Thank you, Mr. 'Urayqat.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Detainees Continue Hunger Strike for 5th Day

JN2206091395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian and Arab detainees in the Israeli occupation jails continue their hunger strike for the fifth consecutive day.

Mahmud Khalaf, member of the general committee for supporting the detainees, has stated that all the political factions have agreed to unite their activities in solidarity with the detainees under one body — the general committee for supporting the detainees.

In a statement to the Palestinian News Agency, Khalaf said that today's program will be unified throughout the Gaza Strip. Traffic will stop for five minutes after which cars will toot their horns. It was also decided that Friday sermon preachers tomorrow should focus their speeches on the detainees' tribulation in the jails of the Israeli occupation and the need to release them. He added that on Saturday, there will be a march starting from the southern part of the Gaza Strip, passing through Gaza's main streets and ending at the al-Yarmuk recreation

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ground where a speech rally is expected to be held on the issue.

Hamas, Fatah Tie in al-Najah University Elections

TA2106134395 (Internet) Al-Akhbar in English 20 Jun 95

["Just In"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In yesterday's elections for the Student Council at al-Najah National University in Nablus, West Bank. The Islamic Resistant Movement, Hamas, in a surprise outcome had came out tight with Fatah. [sentence as received] Both groups had won 39 seats each. Reports say Hamas may take over the council by forming a coalition with PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] which won three seats. This is the second time in the history of al-Najah student council elections in which Fatah may lose.

Since there have never been national Palestinian elections, political observers regard student council elections as a barometer for a future national poll. Latest elections at Jerusalem, BeirZeit, Hebron, and Gaza Universities showed a big win for Hamas.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Transfer of Power Talks Continue in Cairo

Agreement Signed on Communications

NC2106150295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli sides have signed an agreement for the transfer of power in the field of communications. The agreement provides for setting up a television station in Ramallah and a radio station in Gaza.

At a news conference this afternoon, General Aaron Shahor, Israeli Government coordinator in the occupied territories, said the agreement was signed for Israel yesterday by Shlomo Wax, who is the Communications Ministry director general, and for the Palestinian side by delegation member Muhammad Rashid. Shahor said the agreement is in line with the Gaza-Jericho Accord and the Declaration of Principles. He noted that trade problems between the Israeli telephone company and the Palestinian Authority have been solved. [passage omitted]

Negotiations Called 'Complicated'

JN2106190595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the transfer of civil powers to the National Authority in the rest of the West Bank have continued in Cairo. Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Palestinian delegation to these talks, has said that the Israeli side is procrastinating and maneuvering in the talks and attempting to transfer to us limited and worthless powers, contrary to the provisions enshrined in the Declaration of Principles.

For his part, Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks, said that the negotiations on the transfer of powers are still complicated. The Israeli delegation is speaking of early empowerment, and not of an interim period, he added.

Chief Israeli Negotiator Aaron Shahor has said that an agreement will be reached by late June on transferring eight powers to the National Authority in the areas of labor, trade and industry, statistics, agriculture, post and communications, local authorities, insurance, and gasoline and gas. Shahor indicated that the talks are continuing on 30 functions.

In a related development, Israel has agreed to designate frequencies for a Palestinian television at the end of the second day of a new round of talks in Cairo. Shlomo Wax, director general of the Israeli Ministry of Communications, has said that the Palestinian television will cover, per the agreement, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jerusalem, and parts of Israel and Jordan.

The Israeli official added that it has also been agreed that the Palestinians will set up television studios in Ramallah, Gaza, Hebron, Janin, Nabulus, and Jericho. Frequencies for transmitters were also agreed upon, he noted.

Negotiations Continue

NC2206102095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli delegations this morning continued their fifth round of negotiations on the transfer of powers from Israeli administration to the Palestinian Authority [PA].

The Palestinian delegation is led by Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs in the PA. The Israeli delegation is led by General Aaron Shahor, the Israeli government's coordinator in the occupied territories.

The subcommittees also resumed their work and discussions on the transfer of power in several sectors, including water, electricity, agriculture, insurance, postal services, and municipalities.

This round of negotiations is scheduled to end later today, following three previous days of meetings.

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Paper: Palestinians, Israelis Reach Draft Accord

JN2106200595 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
20 Jun 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Khalil Khurma and news agencies]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman/capitals — AL-BAYAN has learned that the Palestinians and Israelis held secret talks over the past few weeks, which led to a joint vision on a final solution for the Palestine question. This vision includes an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and an establishing of an Arab municipality in East Jerusalem in return for Palestine's recognition of Jerusalem as a united political entity and as the capital of Israel.

The Palestinians and Israelis yesterday began discussions with a European delegation in the self-rule area of Jericho in the West Bank to prepare for deploying international observers in charge of supervising the upcoming elections. Reports talked about the arrival of about 100 Palestinian officers in the West Bank to take charge of security following the redeployment of Israeli forces. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin presented a plan to the Israeli Knesset which, he said, does not include removing any settlement.

Leading Palestinian sources in Amman revealed to AL-BAYAN that the secret Palestinian-Israeli negotiations took place between Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat; [Minister of Economy] 'Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala'; and [Palestinian negotiator] Hasan 'Asfur from the Palestinian side, and Yitzhaq Rabin; Shim'on Peres; and Yo'el Singer, legal adviser to the Israeli Government — who was previously in charge of formulating the Oslo agreement and the Camp David treaties.

These sources said that the most prominent features of the agreement lie in the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank, which guarantees removing military manifestations while Israel keeps control over the West Bank's eastern border areas along the Jordan River.

According to the agreement, the Palestinian side agreed on forming a Palestinian municipality in the Eastern part of Jerusalem in return for a Palestinian recognition of Jerusalem's political integrity as the capital of Israel.

In another development, the Jordanian newspaper AL-MAJD said that Ahmad Quray' and Hasan 'Asfur left Amman for Tunis the day before yesterday.

Asked about the purpose of this visit, leading Palestinian sources told AL-BAYAN that Quray' and 'Asfur will brief [PLO Executive Committee member] Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, on the draft agreement to get his approval as stipulated by the Israeli side. They will also brief Faruq Qaddumi, [head of the PLO Political Department], and the Fatah Movement leadership on the details of the agreement. [passage omitted]

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Algeria

TV Reports on Suspended Flights to Paris Airport

LD1706211195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the Algerian airlines company said that since the beginning of February the treatment of Algerian airlines passengers has worsened despite numerous efforts made at all levels. Instead of ending its discriminatory measures, the French increased these measures, first by adopting special treatment for the Algerian Airlines company in banishing them to the lobbies of Orly airport.

Second, the French authorities decided not to allow the Algerian Airlines company to conduct activities from Orly airport and transferred their activities to Charles de Gaulle airport. The two pretexts given by these authorities were to implement security measures and the busy summer season.

However, the security measures applied to passengers are exaggerated, and they are not serious. The running of air navigation during the busy summer periods had always been under control.

This French decision to prevent the national company from its traditional landing in Paris was made unilaterally. In addition, it is discriminatory and harms the dignity of the customers of the Algerian Airlines company. It constitutes a precedent in the history of civil air navigation, particularly as it comes after a series of provocations and pressures.

After the attempts of the Algerian Airlines company to persuade the French side to reconsider the insulting decision, it was impelled to suspend all flights to Paris 22-29 June 1995.

The Algerian Airlines company has drawn up a draft schedule to compensate by increasing flights to other French airports. The new schedule include flights to Lille, Marseille, Nice, Lyon, and Toulouse. The proposal was submitted to the French authorities for approval, as international conventions demand. When the approval is received, it will be announced to the general public.

The Algerian Airlines company is aware of the importance of the busy summer period to its customers inside and outside the homeland and is keen to ensure the best possible conditions for all scheduled flights during this period.

Date of Suspension Changed to 29 Jun

LD2206081795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Air Algerie informs its respectable clients that the date for suspending its flights to the French capital of Paris has been postponed until 29 June instead of 22 June. The decision on the suspension followed the French authorities' transfer of the activity of Air Algerie company from Orly Airport to an isolated building at Charles de Gaulle airport.

Government, FIS Talks Face 'Guarantees' Problem

MM2106144295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: Negotiations Between Authorities and FIS Face Problem of Guarantees"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH — AL-HAYAH has learned that the current negotiations between Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders Shaykhs Abassi Madani, Ali Belhadj, Abdelkader Hachani, Ali Djedi, Abdelkader Boukhamkham, Kemal Kummazi, and Nureddine Chakkara and the presidential delegation headed by General Mohamed Bitchine (presidential adviser) are now faced with the problem of "guarantees," having made some tangible progress on the question of both sides dropping some of their demands.

It has been reported that the negotiations are being held in complete secrecy at the Adlous [as transliterated] villa in El Ebiar (in upper Algiers) and that the released shaykhs (Boukhamkham, Kummazi, Djedi, and Chakkara) have been placed under strict security surveillance and prevented from making any external contacts. A presidential service car takes them every day to the negotiations headquarters and then back to their homes.

Informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that the FIS leaders have insisted on "guarantees" and that they proposed the name of Dr. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi as prime minister for "the transitional period" as a guarantee for the implementation of the agreement expected to be signed before the end of this month.

Shaykh Abassi Madani had nominated Dr. Ibrahimi to succeed Mouloud Hamrouche as prime minister during the June 1991 strike.

Informed sources in the Algerian capital have revealed to AL- HAYAH that "a senior officer contacted Dr. Taleb Ibrahimi several times but did not say what went on between that envoy" and Ibrahimi.

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Eyewitnesses say that they saw an "official car" taking Shaykh Hachani from the Cerkadji prison to the residence of Shaykh Abassi Madani where the negotiations are taking place.

Bachir Mechri, Shaykh Hachani's lawyer, says that on trying to contact his client in prison, he was told by the prison authorities that he was "temporarily" not in prison.

Political observers expect a "joint statement" by the presidency and the FIS leaders to be followed by calming measures and a message to be read out by Shaykh Abassi Madani. [passage omitted]

GIA Claims To Kill 100 'Renunciationists'

MM2206091095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Jun 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Algerian GIA Says It Killed 100 Members of 'Renunciation' Group"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — In a statement issued some days ago, the Algerian Armed Islamic Group [GIA] said that it killed about 100 members of a "renunciation" [takfiriyah] armed group operating in the areas of Ain Defla.

In Statement No. 35, it emphasized that its banner is "the sole legitimate jihad" banner in Algeria and that it has pursued a reformist middle-of-the-road line and did not approve of the "renunciation" movements' excessive "renunciation of the Muslim masses."

The statement, signed by Bou Abderrahmane Amin, the GIA amir, referred to a "group spread mainly through the areas of Ben Zerka, Bou Zegza, and Ain Defla...which renounces the Muslim public and masses, including the GIA; which allows the funds, blood, and honor of the Islamic nation to be abused with impunity; which is abandoning the fight against heretics and the people of the book — that is, Jews and crusaders [Christians]; and which fights Muslims."

It added that the GIA had given that group a period of grace and that some of its members have "repented." It continued: "But after some of them went too far in their folly and corruption, the GIA fought them on the grounds that they were a group driven by whims and falsehood."

It said that the GIA fought that group in Ain Defla, Ben Zerka, and Bou Zegza "killing about 100 of that group" and losing four of its own members. It added that the GIA "obtained evidence that the intelligence [service] used that group to hit at the GIA's beliefs, mode of conduct, and policy by committing sexual crimes such as raping women or indulging in usufruct marriages [Islamic law concept of temporary marriage concluded solely for sexual pleasure] and attributing this to the GIA."

The statement said that the GIA would have announced its acceptance of usufruct marriages had it believed in that concept, just as it did in the past with regard to the killing of foreigners and journalists.

Algiers Radio Reports on Car Bomb in Constantine

LD2106173895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services has said that a booby-trapped car exploded at dawn today in front of an apartment block in the Redeski Abdessalam quarter in the center of Constantine.

The explosion, which took place at around 0400 this morning, injured 13 people, including five children. The statement added that adjacent buildings were also damaged by the explosion.

Egypt

Mubarak Meets With Press Syndicate Members

NC2106183695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1642 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)— President Husni Mubarak has agreed to entrust Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi with the job of referring the Press Syndicate's memorandum on recent amendments concerning publication issues to the Higher Constitutional Court to interpret and clarify some of the law's provisions, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said today.

Al-Sharif added that during his meeting with Press Syndicate Council members today, President Mubarak informed them of the Public Prosecutor's periodic letter on controls prosecution officers should consider when applying the new amendments. He noted that President Mubarak emphasized that this is enough of a guarantee to assure journalists as they perform their role freely and without fear. In statements to journalists, the information minister said President Mubarak agreed to form a committee to devise an integrated law for the press including the current various provisions that regulate the press and publications. The committee comprises representatives of the Press Syndicate and the Higher Press Council and several lawyers. A decree establishing the committee will be issued next week and the committee will have to complete its task in three months before submitting a draft bill to the next session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council.

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On smoothing the journalists' mission of obtaining information, al-Sharif said President Mubarak asked Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to issue a decree facilitating the task of journalists belonging to the state- run and party newspapers so that the various ministries and agencies will provide the right statistics and information.

On the calling of an extraordinary session of the People's Assembly to issue a new draft press law, the president clarified that summoning the assembly to an extraordinary session is a serious issue and that the normal measure would be for the draft bill to be submitted during the assembly's next session.

On the possibility of the president issuing a decree to suspend the new law, he said that under the Constitution he cannot issue such a decree, because it is tantamount to transgressing against the authorities.

Beginning his statements to journalists today, al-Sharif said that during his meeting with the journalists doyen, Ibrahim Nafi', today and his expanded meeting with the syndicate council afterward, President Mubarak emphasized that since assuming his constitutional responsibility he has been eager to enhance "respect for public freedoms," primarily freedom of expression as stipulated in the Constitution.

The president also stated his belief in the freedom of the press, one of the important pillars of democracy in Egypt, and his rejection of any encroachment on the freedom of the press, because he considers it a violation of one of the basic principles on which the state system is based. He noted that this principle is a fundamental that cannot be revoked and over which there can be no bargaining. It is a guarantee for social action's stability and fairness and an assertion of the people's right to know the facts and form a sound vision of things at home and abroad. Thus the people's genuine participation in national action will be asserted and every citizen's commitment to the country's basic concerns will be enhanced, he said.

Al-Sharif added that President Mubarak explained that under his constitutional obligation as president of all Egyptians, there should be no contradiction between the freedom of the press and the protection of citizens' right to learn the facts objectively, sticking to the truth and refraining from fabricating news, disseminating lies and rumors that seek to destroy society's basis and values and sow the seeds of despair and frustration among good citizens.

Therefore, the president added, abandoning trust in the publication of press reports exhausts Egyptian society, which is accustomed to placing its loyalty to the homeland and its basic causes above everything.

Al-Sharif said President Mubarak asserted his utmost concern for the freedom of the press and at the same time referred to his continuous warnings of the need to adhere to "the press covenant of honor" in handling excesses. The president expressed his pride in the role of the Egyptian press and journalists "in shaping public opinion and addressing social issues."

The president said that based on all these facts he followed with interest the current debate on Law No. 93 of 1995 and the various views on the law's potential effects. Al-Sharif added that the president listened at this meeting to the Press Syndicate Council's view on the issue.

On the constitutionality of Law No. 93 of 1995, al-Sharif said President Mubarak heard the syndicate council's view. The president, he added, agreed to ask the prime minister for the government to use its right to refer the Press Syndicate's memorandum to the Higher Constitutional Court to interpret and clarify some of the law's provisions. The court, he noted, should apply its powers stipulated in Article 26 of its bylaw authorizing the court to debate the constitutionality of laws concerning disputes submitted to it.

As for the syndicate council's view on preventive custody in publication crimes, President Mubarak briefed the syndicate council on the Public Prosecutor's periodic letter No. 5 for 1995 devising controls the Public Prosecution members should consider when applying the new amendments issued under Law No. 93 of 1995. The president stressed that this is enough of a guarantee for journalists to carry out their role with complete freedom and without fear or reluctance and also to devise the proposed press law.

As for laws regulating the press, laws concerning publication, and Law No. 93 of 1995, al-Sharif said President Mubarak agreed to form a committee to draft an integrated law for the press including all laws and provisions concerning the press and its affairs according to the Constitution's Article 207.

The article stipulates that the press should conduct its mission freely and independently serving society through every means of expression to convey public thinking and contribute to forming and guiding such thinking. This should be carried out as part of society's basic essentials, the preservation of public freedoms, rights, and duties, and respect for citizens' private life according to the Constitution and law.

The information minister explained that the committee comprises representatives of the Press Syndicate and the Higher Press Council and several lawyers. A decree

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forming the committee will be issued next week and the committee will have to complete its task in three months so that the draft law will be submitted to the next session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, he added. On facilitating journalists' task of gaining access to information, al-Sharif said President Mubarak asked the prime minister to issue a decree to facilitate the mission of journalists belonging to all state-run and party newspapers and to instruct various ministries and agencies to provide information and statistics to ensure the right to knowledge, clarify any misunderstanding, and correct any error.

On the syndicate council's motion on the possibility of issuing a decree suspending Law No. 93 of 1995, President Mubarak explained that under the Constitution he cannot issue such a decree and that any decree to this effect would amount to transgression against the authorities.

As for the Press Syndicate Council members' suggestion to hold an extraordinary session of the People's Assembly to issue new legislation for the press, the president said that summoning the People's Assembly to an extraordinary session is a serious issue and that the normal measure is for new legislation to be forwarded to the People's Assembly at its next session.

Cabinet Discusses Peace, Security, Election

NC2106181395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1653 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—At its meeting chaired by Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today the Cabinet reviewed a report submitted by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on developments in the peace process and the stances adopted by Egypt to consolidate the peace process in the region as part of the effort to establish a balanced Arab-Israeli peace. The report also dealt with Egypt's firm relations with the fraternal Arab countries that support the Egyptian presence abroad.

Announcing this today, Cabinet Affairs Minister Ahmad Radwan said the Cabinet also heard Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi's report on security. The report asserted the State's commitment and adherence to constitutional legitimacy, democratic values, and freedom of expression and that there is no violation of legitimacy or infringement of stability.

Radwan said the Interior Ministry's report dealt with the outcome of the recent Consultative Council midterm and run-off elections. The report clarified that the election process was a clear indication of stability and that the elections were neutral with no interference. The report noted a high turnout and large public participation in the election, especially in the Upper Egypt governorates.

Radwan said the report referred to the successful security blows against extremist terrorists according to plans to arrest any new terrorists. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Colombian Foreign Minister

NC2106122695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1130 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received an invitation to attend the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] summit to be held in Colombia in October. Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Garcia-Pena Pardo conveyed the invitation during his meeting with President Mubarak today.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that during the meeting, the Colombian minister stressed the importance of promoting cooperation between the two countries, particularly since Colombia will be the NAM chairman for the next three years. Musa added that President Mubarak expressed interest in the upcoming summit to be held in Latin America. This demonstrates and asserts the Latin American dimension in NAM, which encompasses Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the developing countries, Musa added. [passage omitted]

For his part, the Colombian foreign minister said: I believe that South-South cooperation within the framework of the nonaligned group is the best way to achieve the required solidarity and serve the interests of our people. We in Colombia hope to bolster our relations with the African countries, especially Egypt.

The Colombian foreign minister described the relations with Egypt as excellent, noting that the two countries share common positions on various issues. He also voiced his country's desire to strengthen the relations with Egypt through further cooperation in the economics field in the future.

Weekly Complains of 'Censorship' by Officials

NC2106131195 Paris AFP in English
1119 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 21 (AFP)—The weekly Middle East Times complained Wednesday [21 June] that Egyptian censors had banned it from printing the story of a student allegedly mistreated during a month-long arrest after an anti-Israeli demonstration.

"The Middle East Times was forbidden to publish the story by the Egyptian censors in its issue of 18-24 June," said Michael Howard, editor of the English-language weekly.

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"Last week we were just told the whole story had to be removed otherwise the whole paper would not be allowed to come into the country."

The newspaper, whose staff are based in Cairo but is printed in Athens, must be submitted to Egyptian censors before it is allowed into the country because of restrictions imposed a year ago.

The paper wanted to print charges by Basil Ramses, a student at 'Ayn Shams University, that he was badly treated by police during his month-long detention following his arrest on March 19.

"I said before in an editorial that we did not condone any violent or illegal activity but we were concerned about the conditions of his detention," Howard said.

"Egypt can only benefit from information like this. There is nothing to be afraid of, it should be dealt with publicly. I don't think it harms Egypt in any way."

The newpaper's complaints come amid a crisis between the Egyptian government and the country's journalists over a new press law which imposes stiff fines and jail terms for defamation.

Journalists, who say the law is aimed at stifling criticism of the authorities, plan an industry-wide strike on Saturday.

But President Husni Mubarak was expected to meet leaders of the journalists' union on Wednesday to try to resolve the dispute.

Libya

Kurdish Workers' Party Leader Thanks al-Qadhdhafi

LD2106150595 Tripoli JANA in English 1440 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, May 21, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Kurdistan Workers Party expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the Kurdish people for the honourable and courageous positions of the great Al Fatih revolution and its leader for the [word indistinct] of struggling nations and nations aspiring for freedom and independence.:

Brother 'Abdallah Ocalan the secretary general of the Kurdistan Workers Party confirmed in a cable he sent to the leader of the revolution the unwavering solidarity of the Kurdish people with the Great Jamahariya against the unfair sanctions which he described as part of a dirty imperialist conspiracy aiming at undermining the steadfastness of the Great Jamahariya, which is considered a fortress and a lighthouse for the Arab and Islamic liberation movement as a whole.

Brother 'Abdallah Ocalan said in his cable to the leader of the revolution that his principled stances towards the cause of the Kurdish people is a medal of honour which we cherish constantly and will remain enshrined in the conscience and hearts of our people forever.

The secretary general of the Kurdistan Workers Party referred to the serious plot against the Kurdish people which is being hatched by Western colonialist states within the pattern of their strategy to dominate nations. That plot began with the recent Turkish military intervention on Iraqi territory.

Brother 'Abdallah Ocalan confirmed that the Western NATO conspiracy does not target only the Kurdish people but it is against the whole Arab nation and the whole Islamic world as well as all the peace-loving forces and those who struggle for freedom around the world.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets 'Experts,' Stresses Development

LD2106144795 Tripoli JANA in English 1416 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Terhuna, May 21, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution is continuing his meetings with the experts in various parts of the great Jamahariya, inciting them towards the exploitation of all resources, potentials and capabilities in each area and drawing constructive plans and programmes which guarantee the transformation from backwardliness to development.

He stressed the need to invest all efforts to enhance the progress achieved over Libyan territory by the hands of its experts.

The leader of the revolution met the experts of Terhuna area who combined with the leader of the march of development, progress and prosperity. They [word indistinct] in their clamour their solid resolve to go ahead in strengthening the march of construction over the (?ganx) of freedom and the mobilization of all resources and potentials present in their area to carry out realistic programmes to achieve the goals of the great Al Fatih revolution and to advance the civilisational achievements over the Libyan Arab territory.

They confirmed their determination for defiance and countering the enemies of freedom and progress such as the imperialists, [words indistinct], the mercenaries and the reactionaires. They announced that their meeting with the leader of the revolution provides them with a constant enertia to draw serious programmes and plans towards the achievement of more realization the road

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of victories achieved by the great Al Fatih revolution in all areas.

The leader of the revolution met experts of Terhuna and clarified the missions and responsibilities cast upon their shoulder to implement the plans and programmes under the supervision of popular leaderships to enhance the progress achieved over the Libyan Arab territory by the exploitation of all resources and local materials.

The popular leadership in Terhuna area delivered a welcome speech to the leader of the revolution in which it said that Terhuna is proud when ever it embraces the leader who put the light in its roads, valleys and plains with the light of the revolution, the light of freedom, the light of progress and prosperity. Terhuna is looking forward to achieving more pages of progress and jihad.

The experts of Terhuna made a speech welcoming the leader of the revolution saying that the meeting with you today in tihs place and within this profusion of scientists and experts has great significances coinciding with the 80th anniversary of the glorious Shegega battle. This meeting signifies love, faithfulness, loyalty and commitment.

The experts of Terhuna presented a holy Koran as a gift to the leader in expression of their loyalty for the symbol of the glory and dignity of the nation.

[Word indistinct] of law in Terhuna offered the leader of the revolution a bouquet of flowers expressing their admiration for the leader of the revolution the chancellor of science and education.

The cubs, buds and arms of the great Al Fatih presented bouquets of flowers to the leader of the revolution in recognition and in faithfulness to the creator of the Jamahiriya era and the achiever of masses freedom.

The experts in Terhuna area provided the leader of the revolution with detailed explainations for their programmes and plans which they laid down under the popular leaderships to exploit local resources, expertise and capabilities to advance their progress in Terhuna and to carry out their proposed projects through self-efforts.

Opposition Group Reports on 'Arrest Campaign'

MM2206091395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition Talks of Disturbances in Banghazi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The National Front for the Salvation of Libya has said that Libyan security services have recently tightened security measures in various areas in Libya.

The Front, which is opposed to the Libyan Government, added in a press statement yesterday that measures were tightened "following a wave of disturbances and troubles that dominated Banghazi in particular."

According to the Front statement, "the regime launched a large-scale arrest campaign that affected a large number of young men." According to the statement, the operation occurred "near al-Shajarah Square in the center of the city."

Sudan

President al-Bashir Renews General Amnesty

EA2006213195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the Republic has renewed the general amnesty for all those bearing arms, urging them to return to the fold of the country for the sake of peace and reconstruction.

Addressing a huge public rally at Freedom Square in the town of Juba, his excellency said the National Salvation Revolution is there to achieve, and to work toward peace. He said peace is the basis for development in all areas. He added that the government will work to resolve all problems facing citizens in Juba in the health and service fields. All returnees from the rebel movement will be taken care of, he said.

Lieutenant General al-Bashir said the people of Sudan have determined their identity, and turned their faces toward God. There will not be another return to sectarianism, he said. The president touched on the so-called opposition's efforts to discredit the homeland, and to violate its unity.

His excellency sent a message to all those seeking to wreck the march of peace in Sudan, saying that the sons of the homeland are prepared to defend it. He donated 100 million Sudanese pounds to the rehabilitation of Bahr-al-Jabal State. [passage omitted]

Opposition Groups' Conference Continues in Eritrea

SPLM Leader Denies 'Sabatoge' Plan

MM2006140595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jun 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Garang Denies Planning To Launch Subversive Operations in Khartoum"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Asmara, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — John Garang, leader of the Sudanese

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People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], has denied that his movement is planning — individually or in cooperation with the opposition in the North — to launch subversive operations in Khartoum.

Garang, who was speaking on the sidelines of the Sudanese opposition conference in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, said that many people misunderstood his call for forming the "Sudan Brigade." He added that "this call was not designed to instigate southerners to hit targets in the North as rumored by some quarters. This call is merely a proposal raised for discussion among all forces as a mechanism to step up opposition action against the (National Islamic) Front, not to sabotage cities."

Garang said that war and peace are the most important issues raised at the opposition conference. He pointed out that the conference's success lies in securing solutions to these issues. He expressed his optimism in this connection "in view of the political forces' seriousness during the continuing discussions." He said that "Sudan's unity is the main aim we are seeking to achieve through a settlement to the issues raised at the conference table."

Garang said that "the government has failed to control the Ugandan-Kenyan borders, and it lost 8,000-10,000 of its troops in the attempt to capture Nimule alone."

The SPLM leader stressed that the opposition National Grouping's conference, whose proceedings are being held in Asmara, is the focus of regional and international interest. And that he is optimistic about the possibility of the conference concluding its proceedings very successfully. He pointed out that disputed issues "are being discussed in a good spirit and responsibly in order to achieve all the aims to which the Sudanese people are aspiring." [passage omitted]

Garang specified in a paper distributed to participants the main issues to be tackled by the conference. The paper specified the conference's aims and the need for the conference to produce convincing solutions in order to halt the war and achieve peace. He listed a number of issues, summed up in the right to self- determination, tasks of the transitional phase, religion and state issues, unity issues, and the mechanism to topple the [Islamic] Front's regime. [passage omitted]

Topics of Discussion Detailed

EA2106204695 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1600 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The conference of the Sudanese National Democratic Alliance which is taking place here in Asmara is still in session today. In the last few days, the conference has discussed decisive issues concerning the future of Sudan. The groups present are resolved to observe a cease-fire once they have toppled the Sudanese regime. The conference also stressed that the issue of rights and obligations in the new Sudan should be based on citizenship alone.

Those present also reached a mutual understanding that religion should be separated from politics. They discussed the principles of how to build the new Sudan. The issue of self-determination, and the leadership issue in Sudan is expected to be discussed during the transitional period. The conference will also continue tomorrow the ERITREAN NEWS AGENCY noted.

New National Congress Leader Considered

95LD0084A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Jun 95 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Possibility of Appointing Abu al-Qasim Ibrahim as Director of Political Organizing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudanese political sources have confirmed that President 'Umar al-Bashir is studying the appointment of retired Major Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, first vice president of former President Ja'far Numayri, as general director of the ruling political organization and secretary of the Federal National Congress.

The position became vacant after its occupant, Brigidier General Hasan Hamdin, was appointed governor of West Darfur. The sources declared that Ibrahim would also keep his position as chairman of the political committee in the National Assembly (parliament) and participate in the supervision of the presidential elections after al-Bashir announced that they would take place next February.

Meanwhile, Vice President Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih stressed that "the unity of the Sudan is not a topic for discussion" and that the implementation of federal rule "does not mean separation or fragmentation, but aims at sharing authority and wealth."

In a meeting with the governors and regional ministers who were appointed last week, al-Zubayr stated that the federal system demanded from officials that they should "attend to development, be open to consultation, and remain at their work places in order to solve the citizens' problems." He considered the current regional governments to be transitional governments awaiting the election of the president and members of parliament. The authorities expect this operation to be completed during 1996.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese Government announced that it has detained two physicians, an Italian and a Sudanese,

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who were working with the rebels in the south. Officials in Khartoum indicated that government forces discovered the two in the Baryang region.

The government accuses the Italian physician, Joseph Mio, of entering the country illegally. The officials explained that he arrived in the country on a rescue airplane belonging to the World Vision organization, which operates within the Lifeline program and under UN sponsorship. They added that the aircraft had not received official clearance to land in the area.

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Bahrain

Amir Receives Yemeni Official, Salih Message

JN2106124895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, today received brother Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, accompanied by brother Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Rahman. The deputy prime minister conveyed a message from Yemeni President brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman. The message deals with the existing brotherly relations between two countries, the outcome of the brother president's visit to Saudi Arabia, and issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Council of Minister Approves Subsidies Ceiling

LD1906182795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 19 Jun — An official source at the Economic Affairs Committee of the Council of Ministers today announced that the Council had recently approved a recommendation to set a ceiling for value of subsidies allocated by the state from the public purse at a level not exceeding 30 percent of the cost of subsidized material and commodities.

The source told KUNA: The ceiling approved by the Council of Ministers will be applied to subsidized building material such as steel and cement, some foodstuffs and consumer goods, and the cost of services which are specific to subsidized material.

The source went on to say that the ceiling was in line with the state's general economic orientation of rationalizing public expenditure and steering consumer expenditure in a way that the citizen would make greater contribution towards easing the state's financial burdens.

It is worth noting that the cost of state subsidies of building material such as steel, cement and bricks reached about 5 million dinars at the end of 1993.

Saudi Arabia

King Holds Telephone Conversation With Mubarak

LD2106140295 Riyadh SPA in English 1218 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, June 21, SPA — Custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received a telephone call Tuesday [20 June] evening from President Husni Mubarak of Egypt.

The telephone conversation came within the framework of constant consultation between the two leaders on various subjects and developments of common concern.

King Fahd and President Mubarak exchanged cordial talks and fraternal feelings, in line with the strong and historic relations between the two leaderships and peoples.

CDLR Bulletin on Shari'ah, Other Issues

MS2106140595 London CDLR Monitor in English 2 Jun 95

[Bulletin No. 50 of the Committee for Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, CDLR — received by fax 16 June]

Your Right to Know — The Legitimacy of the Regime, Part Two: Rule Without Shari'ah

In Part 1, We mentioned various important introductions that must be understood before delving into the more detailed aspects of the legitimacy of the Saudi regime.

In Part II, we will discuss one of the most important pillars of legitimacy, namely applying Shari'ah. Before we can assess the reality of the Saudi regime, we must explain some important fundamental points in more detail.

Firstly, the compulsory rule of Shari'ah is we founded and clearly corroborated in the Koran, Sunnah and Ijmaa, unanimous agreement and consensus of the companions of the Prophet (PBUH) [Praise Be Upon Him], and is one of the basic necessities of faith. (We have sent down to you the book of truth, that you might judge between men, as guided by God; so be not used as an advocate by these who betray their trust.)

Ibn-Taymiyyah said, "No one has the right to rule amongst people, Muslims or non-Muslims, except by the authority of ALLAH and His Prophet (PBUH). Whoever chooses otherwise, the following verses will apply to them: (Do they then seek after a judgement of the days of ignorance? But who, for a people whose faith is assured, can give better judgement than God?) and (But no, by the Lord they can have no real faith, until they make you a judge in all disputes between them and find in their soul no resistance against your decisions, but accept them with the fullest conviction.)"

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim said, "The implementation of Shari'ah is identical to the worship of Allah, as the meaning of the declaration of Islam is that Allah is the only God, and that his Prophet (PBUH) is the one to be followed, and who adjudicated and explained Shari'ah."

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Secondly, it has been proved by Koran, Sunnah and Ijmaa that judgement by means other than Shari'ah is forbidden, and the legislation of laws contrary to the rule of Allah, under whatever name they carry, is open and clear blasphemy. Allah said in the Koran: (If any do fail to judge by the light of what God has revealed, they are no better than unbelievers.) Ibn-Taymiyyah said, "Whoever permits himself to rule people, or to judge amongst people with what he believes to be just, but who nevertheless takes action without following the revelation of Allah (Shari'ah), is a blasphemous unbeliever." He also said, "When a man regards that which has been unanimously agreed upon to be forbidden, as being lawful, or vice versa, or if he changes the laws of Shari'ah, which have been unanimously agreed upon, then he becomes an unbeliever." Ibn-al-Qayyim said, "Whoever seeks judgement by any law that contradicts Shari'ah then he is considered to be one who worships an idol, and Allah instructed us to avoid the worship of anything other than him."

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Hassan said, "Whoever calls for judgement other than Shari'ah, is considered to have left that which the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) came with, and is considered to have ignored it, and assumed a partner to Allah in obedience: (and this he commands: Judge between them by what God has revealed, and follow not their vain desires, but beware of them in case the, beguile you from any of that teaching which God has sent down to you.) and (But no, by the Lord, they can have not real faith, until they make You judge in all disputes between them, and find in their souls no resistance against Your directions, but accept them with the fullest conviction.)"

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim said in the explanation of the verse, "that Allah denied belief to those who sought judgement to other than the Shari'ah brought by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)". As Allah said: (Have you not turned your vision to those who declare that they believe in the revelations that have come to you and to those before you? Their real wish is to resort together for judgement in their disputes to the evil one, though they were ordered to reject him, but Satan's wish is to lead them astray far away from the right).

Thirdly, the commitment to the rule of Allah requires the dominance of Shari'ah on all relevant rules, laws and regulations. the admittance of any law contradictory to Shari'ah is considered to be in the same category as seeking judgement outside Shari'ah, and anyone who admits to, or implements, such an act deliberately, would be considered to be a blasphemer, no matter how big or small the case was.

Al-Jassas said, "Whoever refuses anything from Allah's orders, or those of His Prophet (PBUH), whether by doubt, or by refusal, is an unbeliever."

In a letter to the Prince of Riyadh, Shaykh Muhammed Bin-Ibrahim wrote, "the consideration of any other laws, no matter how insignificant, undoubtedly represents a lack of acceptance of the judgement of Allah and His Prophet (PBUH), as well as implying Allah's judgement to be deficient with regard to the solving of people's problems and fulfilling their requirements. Believing such things can throw a man out of his faith. the case is clear and is not one of those disputed matters for people to differ in."

Fourthly, the legislation of human laws and regulations, and the establishment of courts to implement those laws, is undoubtedly considered to be seeking judgement by means other than the Shari'ah of Allah. About this, Allah said, (Do they then seek after a judgement of the days of ignorance? But, who, for a people whose faith is assured, can give better judgement than God?)

Ibn-Kathir said in explanation of the above verse, "Allah denies those who depart from his Shari'ah, which contains all that is good for man whilst forbidding all that is evil, and Allah denies those who deviate towards the opinions of men and their desires, without the guidance of the Creator, such as the laws implemented by the Tartars, whose laws were taken from their king, Genghis Khan, who himself derived them from a mixture of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, along with many other sources, but many from his own opinions, These laws were inherited by his sons and became the laws followed and were placed before the Shari'ah of Allah. Whoever does this is considered to be an unbeliever and must be fought until the rule of Allah and His Prophet (PBUH) is restored."

Shaykh Muhammad al-Shanqiti said, "the implementation of laws contradictory to the Shari'ah of the Creator on society as a whole, is committing disbelief to the Creator, who is most knowledgeable of people's needs and interests. The Creator has no partner, or partners, to legislate with him. (Your will see the wrong doers in fear on account of what they have earned and the burden of that must necessarily fall on them) and say: see you what things God has sent down to you for sustenance? Yet you hold forbidden some things thereof and some things lawful. Say: has God indeed permitted you, or do you invent things to attribute to God?)"

Shaykh Muhammad Hamid said with regard to legislators of human laws," they are without a doubt blasphemers and unbelievers if they insist on what they are doing, and do not return to the laws of Allah. their prayer,

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fasting or pilgrimage would be invalid, as well as their other external Islamic activities."

Fifthly, there is a vast difference between those who sometimes neglect, overstep the mark, or commit injustice due to ignorance or bias, and those who legislate laws and regulations and then establish courts to ensure that the laws are binding on the people. It is necessary to differentiate between the two types because the first one, even thought it is a big crime, may not be actually transferring people away from the boundaries of Islam, whereas the second type is a clear blasphemy.

Shaykh Muhammad Bib-Ibrahim said, with regard to the first type, that the blasphemy that does not remove a man from his faith in Islam, and this was described by Ibn Abbas as "blasphemy". It occurs when a man's desires or bias lead him to judge in a case without consultation of Shari'ah, but at the same time, he still believes in the judgement of Allah and His Prophet (PBUH), and he admits and accepts his mistake. this would not remove him completely from Islam, but is still considered to be one of the main devastating sins, and is considered to be worse than adultery, drinking alcohol, theft, etc..

The Shaykh said that the second type is the contradiction of Shari'ah, the competing of human laws and courts with legitimate courts with regard to preparation, supply, foundation, commitment, references, documentation etc. The references for the legitimate courts are the Koran and Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH), whereas the references of the man-made courts are the laws of the French, British and Americans amongst others.

These types of courts are open in most Islamic countries and they judge between people in contradiction to Islamic rule in the majority of cases, and Muslim people are bound by these illegitimate laws.

What sort of blasphemy and disbelief is this, which contradicts the acceptance of Islam as a way of life?

Sixthly, the claim of a ruler or a regime that they are implementing Islamic Shari'ah has no meaning if they are, in fact, ruling by man-made laws. (Have you not turned your vision to those who declare that they believe in the revelations that have come to you and to those before you? their real wish is to resort together for judgement in their disputes to the evil one, though they were ordered to reject him but Satan's wish is to lead them astray far away from the right.)

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Hassan said in explanation of the above verse that, "Anyone who contradicts the Shari'ah of Allah by ruling people by his own opinions and desires, has departed from Islam, even if he claims the contrary, as his very actions contradict his claims. Allah instructed the believers to follow the way of Allah and His Prophets and no other." The Shaykh also said that seeking judgement by anything other than Shari'ah is contradictory to belief.

From this introduction, we have explored the condition of the Saudi regime — whether it gives supremacy to Shari'ah in all its policies and systems, or whether the fundamental aspect of al- Sa'ud's present rule lies in the disablement of the supremacy of Shari'ah and the implementation of laws of illegitimate, non-Islamic origin, such as happens in the courts, where special rights are afforded to the princes and rulers of areas enabling them to cancel or disregard any law or judgement issued by the courts that does not suit them. It is clear to anybody monitoring the situation, that the state of the laws and regulations in the Kingdom obviously coincides with the latter scenario.

The Government escapes the use of the words legislation and law, preferring to use other misleading terms such as rules, regulations and instructions instead. Indeed it is a fact that laws have been passed under these misleading names with regard to implementation of punishments, permitting the forbidden, disallowing lawful rights etc.. Such legislation as company regulations and commercial papers, regulations covering labour and labourers, monitoring banks, concerning Saudi nationality and regulations concerning printing, publishing, media control etc. are all on one side, with Islam on the other. In other words, these regulations are contradictory to Islamic rules, as their source is of western or mixed origin, of which parts of Shari'ah may be included.

In some cases, Shari'ah would be considered by al-Sa'ud as a substitute source of legislation, such as in the system of the Council of Mediation between the countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council, and also in Clause 185 of the regulations covering labour and labourers. The regulations covering the previously mentioned areas contain a various number of punishments that are not related to Islam, and those covering companies and commercial papers contain different methods of settling disputes and other activities, contrary to Shari'ah. Such regulations are protected by the Government, and in some cases the rules and regulations do not just contradict Shari'ah, but they even give the King a "divine" right, with no reservations, as in clause 27 of military law which states, "to the King only". This right allows the King to respect or ignore judgements, or to exchange one judgement with another in the same case.

For the state to implement these legislation and laws, which are actually called rules and regulations, the Government established illegitimate courts and called them committees. Members of these "courts" must be knowledgeable of the rules and regulations, but not

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knowledgeable regarding Islamic laws. A researcher investigated these courts and found out that they are more than thirty in number and are all practising a judicial role contrary to Shari'ah. for example, the Committee in charge of settling bank disputes, the commercial courts, the military courts etc..

Therefore, Shari'ah courts are limited or confined to a small area of judgement, and even then they are under the dominance of illegitimate laws, The judges of these courts are not independent, they are bound to follow the directions of the council of Ministers, the specialised ministries, counties and councils, even if they contradict legitimate laws.

The judge himself is unable to pronounce in many cases, except in a very confined and limited manner with regard to Shari'ah, as the man-made rules and regulations are predominant and much more frequently used. Therefore the reality of the situation is that the supremacy is not to Shari'ah, and the dominance is not to Islam, and that the majority of regulations, legislation etc, are contrary to Islamic law.

How can anyone claim, therefore, that this state is practising Shari'ah, or rules by Islam? the Government have been consistently reminded and advised by faithful scholars including scholars such as Shaykh Ibn-'Atiq and Shaykh Ibn- Si'di, and also by the previous Mufti, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim, who confronted people in a very frank manner and whose letters and fatwas denouncing the Government's activities with regards to legislation and laws contrary to Islamic Shari'ah are well known.

However, instead of accepting the advice of the now deceased Mufti, the Government instead issued a law prohibiting the printing and distribution of the Shaykh's fatwas. Recently the scholars offered their advice to the regime in a very objective and concentrated manner in the "advice memorandum." The advice was presented in a very clear and concise manner, explaining to the Government that Shari'ah was not being implemented. We do not believe that t anyone could doubt, after this explanation, that the Saudi regime is, in fact, ruling without Shari'ah, and the sin of non-practice of Shari'ah falls upon the whole nation because the implementation of Shari'ah is one of the collective duties of Islam. The nation is responsible to do its utmost to practice, to avoid being placed in a "sinful" situation.

Finally, we would warn those who defend the regime by claiming that it is practising Shari'ah, by saying that they are, in great danger. Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab said, in explaining the verse, (They take their priests and their anchorites to their lords in derogation of God.) that those who obey the rulers and scholars in forbidding what Allah has made lawful, and who have allowed that which Allah has forbidden, have in fact taken those rulers and scholars as their lords.

News — Increased Decline In Services

The decline in services has reached such a stage that there are no indications of any signs of improvement. Through close monitoring of the reality of the services, the increased demand, the present inefficient preparation, the severe inability to carry out maintenance and the inability to expand, it can be deduced that the citizens should find themselves a more realistic and practical way of receiving these services. The electricity supplies, for example, have been disrupted for long periods of time since the beginning of the summer due to overload of the equipment. In some areas, the supply of electricity is routinely distributed so that each area is allowed a ration of a few hours only. In addition to this inconvenience the connection charges have been increased from 2700 Riyals to 17000 Riyals, plus an increase in the charge per unit.

The media is playing the role of "cover up" for the decline and inadequacy in the services by lying, and continuing to lie, in attempts to convince the nation. How can such lies be believed when the average citizen is actually experiencing the decline, with increased charges. At the same time he sees the huge palaces of the princes which often cover an area equivalent to a small town, being supplied with electricity and connections free of charge, with no power cuts whatsoever? The rulers also attempt to fool people by declaring hypothetical projects such as the power station costing 2 billion Riyal which is to be situated in the central area of the Kingdom. This caused anger and resentment from the people of the western areas, but we advised them not to upset themselves as this would remain a hypothetical project.

With regard to telephone services, new connections have been completely stopped, except for the ruling family and their entourage, this idea is for them to make a profitable business by selling these services on the black market.

Water utilities present a repetition of inconvenience, again beginning this summer. It is known that vast areas in the Kingdom are dependent on water delivered by tankers. This water has to be brought in and purchased to homes. Such cities include al-Baha, the majority of both southern and northern cities. the price of one such delivery of water has become so high that many ordinary citizens cannot afford the price. All this and the summer has hardly begun!

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Poor Princes!

A group of the poor princes whose wealth only amounts to a few tens of millions, and whose salaries and grants do not exceed 5 million a year, put forward a petition to the King requesting an improvement in their situation and protesting about the obsession of the senior princes and their sons, to possess everything possible. The King was concerned with this, and appointed a committee from within the family to investigate the case and then to improve the situation of those princes in order to avoid their falling into "dire" poverty ! One of the most prominent amongst those concerned with the case, and who perhaps has been appointed as Chairman of the committee, is al-Walid Bin-Talal. He has shown great enthusiasm, and is presently carrying out various activities pursuing this goal. It has been noticed within the King's immediate circle, that the King frequently praises al-Walid Bin-Talal in a very direct and forthright manner.

Experts on the King's psychology, or in other words, experts on the way the King "thinks", believe that King Fahd is attempting to prepare the ground for the younger generation of al-Sa'ud, to be able to justify an important role for his son 'Abd-al-'Aziz, who is, also from al-Walid's generation.

Khalid Bin-Sultan's Book

Khalid Bin-Sultan opened a huge media campaign, costing tens of millions of dollars in order to advertise his "great" book, for which the nation has been 'impatiently waiting,' and which is entitled, "A Fighter From The Desert." Many experts believe that the popularity of this book, and its political and military effect will exceed even that of the celebrated "Green Book"! We will leave the details of the secrecy surrounding the writing and preparation of the book, the media campaign etc. to a future issue. The amount of money that was paid out on all sides and the secret programme that took place in London will have to be left as well to respect a request from one of the prominent, international media institutions.

Bandar Bin-Sultan

Monitors of the situation of Bandar Bin-Sultan in Washington, have noticed a distinct lack of interest on the part of Bandar, to remain in Washington over the last year. Some observers who are aware of Bandar's private activities and relations, believe he will soon leave Washington for good. He left America for a few months and returned just recently, it is expected that he will soon depart once more. No accurate information is available for the

reason behind his frequent absences from Washington. Some close associates of the Embassy say that it is that he feels unwanted by the present American administration. However, close associates of the ruling family say that the reason for his absences is that Bandar wants to secure his position in the family before the departure of King Fahd!

More Oppression

Al-Sa'ud still continue the policy of preventing free speech and preaching. Recently, Shaykh Fahd Bin-Hijab al-Harbi was prevented from public speaking, lecturing and even from praying as an Iman in the mosque. In al-Qasim the two brothers, Salih and 'Abdallah al- 'Amid were arrested for their participation in reform activities.

Last Monday [29 May], Nasir al-Dhubay'i was arrested for similar activities.

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'Unprecedented Tension' in Baghdad After 'Mutiny'

JN2106170495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Baghdad speak of unprecedented tension in the Iraqi capital. These reports say that the Baghdad regime's call up of some of the Army reserves reflects the state of confusion it has been experiencing since the armored unit's mutiny in Abu Gharib. That mutiny faced the Iraqi regime with the first serious attempt to overthrow it, especially since that attempt was supported by large and powerful tribes originally considered to be supporters of the regime.

Diplomatic reports from inside Iraq say that the Iraqi Army units in northern and southern Iraq are currently witnessing large-scale changes among commanders and officers suspected of loyalty to the tribes opposed to the regime in anticipation of any fresh mutiny. Diplomatic reports have revealed that the Iraqi Army is currently carrying out a large-scale campaign in the al-Ramadi areas and its vicinity, where the regime is being confronted with armed pockets of tribesmen seeking to remove the Iraqi regime forces from the area in an assertion of the determination of the al-Dulaymi tribe and its allies to continue resisting the Baghdad regime until it is overthrown.

Organized Press Tour of al-Ramadi Shows No Unrest

NC2106185695 Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 21 (AFP) — Residents of al-Ramadi in western Iraq denied that the town had been hit by unrest when they spoke to reporters during a press visit Wednesday [21 June] organised by the information ministry.

Life in al-Ramadi, 100 kilometres (62 miles) west of Baghdad, appeared to be normal and there were no signs of unusual military activity, an AFP correspondent on the guided visit said.

On Monday a senior member of the powerful al-Dulaymi tribe, which reliable sources say has declared open war on President Saddam Husayn, said the Iraqi army had besieged al-Ramadi since an al-Dulaymi general led an abortive mutiny near Abu Gharib military base west of Baghdad last week. [passage omitted]

However, eight inhabitants of the town described the reports as "propaganda and lies."

The governor of al-Anbar, 'Awad Hamad al-Bandar, said reports of unrest "are aimed at undermining our people's staunch stand in the face of the embargo" imposed on Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Iraqi authorities firmly denied that a mutiny took place near Abu Gharib.

General Arrested for Refusing al-Ramadi Governorship

JN2106174195 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1410 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Baghdad regime's authorities have recently arrested Staff Lieutenant General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi after he refused to assume the post of al-Ramadi governor to replace 'Awwad al-Bandar. This was stated by our sources.

The sources said that by refusing to assume the al-Ramadi governor post, Lt. Gen. al-Rawi is trying to avoid confrontation with the al-Dulaym tribes, whose sons have continued to confront the Baghdad regime's forces in retaliation for the killing of their sons and brothers by Saddam's henchmen, and to save tens of men and women who were imprisoned by the tyrant's organs.

It is worth mentioning that Lt. Gen. al-Rawi is a descendant of the al-Rifa'i tribe in Rawah, which has close ties with the al-Dulaym tribes. He was appointed military adviser to Saddam after he was previously relieved of the post of the Iraqi Army chief of staff.

SAIRI Details Arrest Campaign

JN2106171195 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1410 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The organs of the dictatorial regime in Baghdad have recently launched a large-scale arrest campaign against officers and noncommissioned officers at the Defense Ministry. This was stated by sources in the media center of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], which added that among these officers are: Staff Colonel Maysam Hamid Hasan, Colonel Yunus (?Nimr) Jabir, Staff Lieutenant Colonel Hisham Muzaffar 'Abd 'Ali, Major Salah-al-Din Muhammad 'Alwan, Lieutenant Colonel Nimr 'Azim Khalid, as well as eight other officers and three noncommissioned officers. These personnel were arrested on charges of collaborating and coordinating with the officers of the recent rebellion movement at Abu Gharib camp.

The SAIRI sources said that the tyrant has ordered the Political Guidance officers to arrest or execute all the officers who refuse to execute his criminal orders against any possible military action. This comes after the tyrant has realized, through recent developments in

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the Army, that his control of the Armed Forces has weakened, and that the state of rejection and grumbling among high-ranking officers has escalated.

Al-Dulaym Tribes Targeted

MM2106130695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jun 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Former Iraqi Chief of Staff Reportedly Arrested"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Iraqi sources abroad have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Iraqi authorities last week arrested Lieutenant General Iyad al-Rawi, former chierf of staff, who belongs to the al-Dulaym tribes. Other sources have stressed that Colonel Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi, who led the attempted military rebellion last Wednesday on the outskirts of Baghdad, is still alive, as he managed to escape and hide in one of the areas controlled by the al-Dulaym tribes in west Iraq.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that figures from these tribes have warned the leader of the Iraqi-based Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization against continuing to cooperate with the Iraqi Government in suppressing and pursuing its opponents from among the sons of these tribes.

The sources said that Lt. Gen. al-Rawi was arrested at the end of last week after his refusal to accept his assignment by the Iraqi president as governor of al-Anbar. The al-Dulaym tribes are concentrated in al-Anbar Governorate. The al-Dulaym tribes' relations with the Iraqi Government have deteriorated recently following the execution of five officers belonging to these tribes on charges of planning to overthrow the regime in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

In the same context, sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that figures from the al-Dulaym tribes have sent a message to Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, warning him against continuing to cooperate with the Iraqi Government and playing "the role of policeman" for it. The sources stressed that the message was sent to Rajavi's office in Baghdad. The Iranian opposition organization was accused of contributing to crushing the rebellion last week.

The sources said that armed units from the organization were recently allocated a number of checkpoints near Baghdad and west of al-Ramadi toward the border with Syria. Other units, together with units from Iraqi Government forces, are combing al-Ramadi orchards in search of the wanted elements belonging to the al-Dulaym tribes.

At another level, information received from people arriving from Baghdad says that Iraqi security and intelligence organs are currently witnessing large-scale changes in their leadership, including those who belong to the al-Dulaym tribes. According to the sources of this information, a number of these are now expected to be dismissed from service, among them Lieutenant Colonel Sajid al-Dulaymi, director of the public security director's office; Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Hasan (half brother of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn); Col. 'Abbas al-Dulaymi, director of al-Muthanna Government's security; Col. Dari 'Abdallah al-Dulaymi, assistant director of Mosul security; and Lt. Col. Hazim al-Dulaymi, assistant director of Babil security.

The information added that security and intelligence officers from al-Dulaym have already been pensioned off. They include Col. Ibrahim 'Alawi al-Dulaymi, director of Baghdad security, who has been referred to a special court in Baghdad at the Interior Ministry with no reason given. It has been reported in Baghdad that the change campaign could also affect directors and officials of the foreign stations of the general intelligence service, since a number of al-Dulaym officers are based in Tehran, Amman, New York, and Geneva.

The support office [maktab al-isnad] of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (opposition) has said that authorities in Baghdad have arrested scores of officers and noncommissioned officers from some military units, and that they are being held at the Defense Ministry. In a statement, of which AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received a copy, the office listed the following names: Staff Col. Hisham Muzaffar 'Abd-al-'Aliyy, Col. Yunus Shamar Jabir, Major Salah-al-Din Muhammad 'Ulwan, Col. Sami Khudayr Ghatran, Captain Safa' Wisam 'Ali, Lt. Jawwad Kazim Taqiyy, Lt. Shukri Muhsin Shakir, Lt. Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahman Nazim, Lt. 'Amir 'Ali Husayn, deputy officer Shinshil Kazim Hasan, deputy officer Mazlum 'Abbas, and deputy officer Muhammad 'Abbas Saddam.

Opposition Claims Army on 'Maximum Alert'

NC2106144595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Jordanian diplomat who arrived in Vienna yesterday to take part in a UN-Arab League meeting has stated that tension is continuing inside Iraq. He said Saddam's regime has put the Army on maximum alert and called up Army reserves. The Jordanian diplomat, who frequently visits Baghdad, told our radio that the Baghdad-Amman highway through al-Ramadi is fraught with danger. The ruling regime has sent further military and security reinforcements and increased roadblocks on the highway. The Jordanian

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diplomat, who requested anonymity, noted that many officers and soldiers have taken refuge among tribes in western villages and have launched armed attacks on Army roadblocks on the Baghdad-Amman highway, using military vehicles and weapons seized from Saddam Husayn's military barracks, where they were serving.

Ekeus Briefs UN Security Council on Baghdad Talks

JN2106152395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 21 Jun (INA) — The Security Council held an unofficial round of consultations yesterday in which Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, presented a verbal briefing summarizing the contents of his ninth report submitted to the Council in accordance with Paragraph 9 of Security Council Resolution 687.

Ekeus said that he visited Baghdad from 29 May to 1 June this year and held talks there which focused on several outstanding issues, particularly in the biological field. He said he met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who told him that the main reason for Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is its desire to lift the embargo imposed on it by fulfilling the requirements related to the implementation of Paragraphs 21 and 22 of Resolution 687. 'Aziz also told him that if Iraq does not expect an end to the embargo, then it would be difficult for it to justify the efforts, the sacrifices, and the costs resulting from this cooperation. The Special Commission and the IAEA, he added, must inform the Security Council that the principal clauses required for the implementation of Paragraph 22 have been fulfilled in the fields of missiles, chemical weapons, monitoring, and the nuclear field and that Iraq is prepared to address the important outstanding issues in the biological field.

Ekeus said: Major progress has been achieved in the fields of the missiles and the chemical weapons. Moreover, the monitoring and verification system is now in operation. As regards the biological field, there have been no developments at all. The Iraqi Government decided to suspend the dialogue. It links its furnishing of information in the biological field to the closing of the files of the chemical weapons and the missiles.

Ekeus added: The UN Special Commission is confident that it has a good general picture of the history of the missiles and the chemical weapons programs. Iraq's prohibited capabilities have been terminated. Although there are still some outstanding issues in these two fields, these are not significant enough to influence our knowledge of Iraq's former programs. Iraq's cooperation has significantly contributed to the establishment of the monitoring system in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Resolution 715.

Ekeus then spoke about the financial problems facing the Special Commission and asked the UN Security Council to find a suitable solution.

After Ekeus concluded his speech, the UN Security Council president gave the floor to U.S. Envoy Madeleine Albright, who, as always, attacked Iraq and demanded that it abide by the Security Council resolutions.

The French ambassador then spoke. He hailed the clarity of Ekeus' report and voiced satisfaction with the outcome of the discussions in Baghdad and the cooperation Iraq had displayed in the chemical field and in the fields of the missiles and the monitoring system. He noted the importance of completing the information in the biological field. He also underlined France's constant and firm position which argues that as soon as the Special Commission presents a positive report on Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations, the Security Council must view positively the implementation of Paragraph 22. He said France will at the proper time present a draft resolution in this regard.

Next to speak was the Russian ambassador, who said that Russia is viewing with satisfaction Iraq's implementation of some parts of Resolution 687 and the progress that has been achieved in the chemical, missiles, and monitoring fields. He noted that monitoring is operating well and perfectly. The Russian ambassador added that Iraq is cooperating and that the Special Commission's work has entered a new phase.

The Russian ambassador said that Ekeus' report points out Iraq's readiness to cooperate in the biological field, and that Russia is working with Iraq on the bilateral level to resolve all difficulties in the biological field.

The Russian ambassador stressed his confidence that the time will come for lifting the Iraq blockade.

On his part, the British ambassador said that the report contains both white and black elements. He said that the positive development in the report is the progress that has been achieved in the chemical, missiles, and monitoring system fields. He welcomed this development, but said there is a shortage of information in other fields. He said: We are still uninformed of many things, and Iraq is trying to procrastinate.

Then came the turn of the Argentine ambassador, who said that he did not read the report because he did

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not receive a copy of it, but he said he believes that information in the biological field should be completed.

Afterward, the Italian ambassador noted with satisfaction the progress in the chemical, missiles, and long-term monitoring fields, but said he feels worried over the slow progress in the biological field.

The Czech delegate repeated the same ideas contained in the Italian delegate's address.

In his address, the Chinese ambassador referred to the positive aspects of Ekeus' report in the fields of chemical weapons, missiles, monitoring, and verification. He said that the only negative aspects are in the biological field. He stressed China's constant stand on Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations. He said the UN Security Council should meet its obligations toward Iraq and look into the appropriate time for lifting the oil embargo in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

The Omani ambassador spoke about the great progress that has been achieved. He expressed the hope that Iraq will cooperate to fill the gaps in the biological file.

The Nigerian ambassador said that Ekeus' report is very encouraging, and that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations in accordance with Paragraphs 8, 9, and 10 of Section "C" of Resolution 687. He said that Iraq cooperates with the UN Special Commission, and is determined to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions, but it is a matter of time.

Diplomatic sources in New York described the UN Security Council's session yesterday as good and positive, adding that Ekeus will head for Baghdad at the end of this month to resume his talks with the Iraqi side. Other sources noted that the Security Council will hold a session tomorrow, Thursday, to discuss Ekeus' written report after the ambassadors receive their government's assessment and instructions in this regard.

Rolf Ekeus held a news conference last night to explain his report to journalists. He said that many Security Council members expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved. He also answered journalists' questions.

Sources Cited on 'Positive' Session

JN2106121595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1120 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Security Council held an unofficial round of consultations yesterday in which Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, presented a verbal briefing summarizing the contents of his ninth report submitted to the Council in accordance with Paragraph 9 of Security Council Resolution 687. Diplomatic sources in New York described the Council session as good and positive, adding that Ekeus will head for Baghdad at the end of June to resume his talks with the Iraqi side. Other sources noted that the Security Council will hold a session tomorrow, Thursday, to discuss Ekeus' written report after the ambassadors receive their government's assessment and instructions in this regard.

Rolf Ekeus held a news conference yesterday to explain his report to journalists. He said that many Security Council members expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved.

Russia's Posuvalyuk: 'Great Satisfaction' With Talks

JN2106111795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA) — Russian Deputy Foreign minister Viktor Posuvalyuk has expressed great satisfaction with the results of his talks with Iraqi officials during his visit to Baghdad.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency before his departure today, Posuvalyuk said he discussed with the Iraqi side coordination of the Russian-Iraqi efforts aimed at lifting the oil embargo on Iraq on the basis of implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions and the need for appropriate reaction by the Security Council toward the positive Iraqi stand.

Posuvalyuk added that he also discussed relations between Russia and Iraq and ways of developing them in the political, economic, and commercial fields.

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Rabin Bureau Denies Report on 'Full' Withdrawal

TA2106184295 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview published in THE WASHINGTON POST today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Israel would need at least three years of normalization with Syria before it can consider a full withdrawal from the Golan.

In response, the Prime Minister's Bureau said that Rabin did not refer to a full withdrawal on the Golan, but explained to the newspaper that the withdrawal line, and therefore the depth of the withdrawal, has not yet been fixed.

Rabinovich on Syrian Talks, Prospects for Accord

TA2206053495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's ambassador to the United States Itamar Rabinovich says a security agreement is not expected to emerge during the three days of talks next week in Washington between the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff. The ambassador said it will be a sign of success if the two men are able to agree on a framework for military talks at a lower level and for political talks next month. The ambassador said prospects for an accord should be clear by early August and that there is a chance to reach an overall peace deal with Damascus by an informal deadline of early next year. Speaking to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Rabinovich said: I think it's doable.

The ambassador also made clear that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had not talked in THE WASHINGTON POST interview about considering a full withdrawal from the Golan after three years of normalized relations with Syria.

[Begin Rabinovich recording] What he means is we will begin to implement our part of our commitment to withdrawal in a small way in the first phase, and we will complete our commitment after a period of at least three years. So the completion does not refer to full withdrawal, but refers to completing the commitment undertaken at the time of signing. [end recording]

Likud: Rabin Should Not Send Shahaq to U.S. Talks

TA2106111195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud has demanded that the prime minister not send the Israeli chief of staff for talks with his Syrian counterpart in Washington, because this involves a political mission over which a sharp debate is being waged. Speaking in the Knesset, Likud Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau said Mr. Rabin is sending Chief of Staff Shahaq to do his dirty work for him and is putting him in an intolerable situation of a conflict of interests.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Efrayim Sne, answering on Mr. Rabin's behalf, said that the chiefs of staff talks will focus only on security issues and that it is important that the man in charge of these issues discuss this issue with the Syrians.

NRP No-Confidence Motion Over Talks With Syria

TA2106173495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Religious Party presented a no-confidence motion in the government over the chief of staff's trip for what it called political talks with the Syrian chief of staff and for the police minister's remark that it would not be possible to safeguard the Green Line settlements following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Knesset will debate the motion next Monday [26 June].

Source Cited on Linking U.S Missiles, Withdrawal

TA2106184795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 95

[Qobi Marenko video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior defense establishment source has said that if Israel withdraws from the Golan Heights, it will have to call on the United States to fund the manufacture and deployment of operational Arrow missiles. Israel believes that if there is a Syrian lightning offensive it will include a barrage of Scud missiles on military targets. The Arrow is supposed to be the answer to those Scuds. Our correspondent Qobi Marenko reports:

[Begin Marenko recording] The Arrow project is still in the development and testing stage, but the defense establishment is already thinking ahead. A senior defense establishment source said that within the framework of the U.S. aid meant to compensate Israel for the Golan withdrawal, Israel should demand that the United States fund the deployment of operational Arrow missiles. A surface-to-surface Syrian threat has increased since the Scud-C's were put into operational use by the Syrian Army, which currently has 62 various launchers and hundreds of surface-to-surface missiles.

Israel believes that a sudden Syrian offensive will include an opening barrage of Scuds on targets deep inside

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the country, such as Air Force bases, emergency warehouses, and command and control posts. The Arrow system is, at present, the closest answer to that threat. That is why Israel believes it is so important to have the system.

The Arrow is still in the testing stage, but it is estimated that deploying a single system to provide defense against the Syrian threat will cost hundreds of millions of dollars. The contacts so far indicate that there is an American understanding of that need, but it is still unclear whether that will be translated into financial aid. [end recording]

'Golan Report' Newsletter

TA1806051195 (Internet) Golan Report in English May 95

[Number 9/May 1995]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

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EDITORIAL

When the facts speak for themselves, as thousands of visitors are learning at the 'Oz Lagolan [Courage for the Golan] exhibit, it is difficult to argue against the wisdom of retaining the Golan Heights under Israeli sovereignty. The power and popularity of the exhibit's message has threatened the Peace Now Movement to the extent that they have resorted to soliciting seven Golan individuals to file a petition with the Supreme Court. They have asked that pledges made by the two Golan Councils for funding for GRC's educational activities be stopped. We are not surprised that the Peace Now supporters are alarmed by the degree of support for the Golan and we welcome healthy debate on the issues, by any group. However, this attempt to thwart free speech rather than to launch an educational counter-campaign of their own, leads us to question the strength of the Peace Now argument of "Land for Peace". The attainment of real peace is threatened when there exists suppression of information, vital for the public's understanding of central issues which affect their lives. An effective "peace process" can only exist within the framework of a democratic process

PUBLIC OPINION POLLS Since 1991, public opinion polls conducted in Israel indicate that a majority of Israelis are against full/any withdrawal from the Golan, as a condition for peace negotiations with Syria.

Year	Name of pollster	% against withdrawal
1991	Dahaf	76%
1992	Center For Research - Hanokh Smith	50%
1993	Geocartography - Prof.Avi Dgani	75.9%
1993	Jerusalem Report - Hanokh Smith	62%
1994	Besa Center for Strategic Studies	61.4%
1994	Dahaf - Dr.Mina Tzemah	68%
1995	Blich School* - 800 students	65%
1995	Civil Intelligence of Israel - 1200 Russian Olim	53.5%

*Note: In 1977, the student body of Blich High School, in Ramat Gan, surprised the experts by contradicting political analysts and predicting a Likud victory. The rest is history and now when Blich High speaks, the analysts listen.

In 1994, the US MIDDLE EAST QUARTERLY polled 1000 US voters, on Election Day, and 64.3% were against stationing US troops on the Golan.

GRC BRINGS THE GOLAN HEIGHTS TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

'Oz Lagolan had its successful Jerusalem opening on May 1st and was attended by many distinguished visitors. Among those who applauded the powerful film, which featured the people of the Golan, were MK [Knesset Member] Binyamin Netanyahu, MK Avigdor Qahalani and Jerusalem mayor, Ehud Olmert.

A group of about 20 members of the "Peace Now" Youth Movement came to the exhibit site with the aim of demonstrating in favor of withdrawal from the Golan.

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GRC volunteers invited them in to see the exhibit. They viewed the film and after deliberating among themselves, they decided to abandon their plans to protest. It seemed that these young people were moved by the portrayal of the Golan Heights which is not being widely publicized by the government, i.e. the beauty, accomplishments and real peace which is experienced by those who have made the Golan their home.

As of May 24th, over 52,000 people have visited the exhibit and due to popular demand, 'Oz Lagolan will remain in Jerusalem until Shavu'ot [Pentecost].

Save these dates to experience 'Oz Lagolan during your next visit to Israel. These dates may be subject to change.

Jerusalem	5/27 to 6/5
Beersheba	6/12 to 6/24
Tel Aviv	7/4 to 7/15
Haifa	7/22 to 7/31
'Afula	8/8 to 8/19
Netanya	8/26 to 9/2
Tel Aviv	9/9 to 9/27
Golan Heights	10/10 to 10/20

REMEMBER TO CONTACT GRC THROUGH INTERNET

E-mail # golan-r@golan org.il is the code which connects you to the latest news about the struggle to retain the Golan within Israel's borders or allows you to engage in dialogue with GRC and others about current Golan issues. Now there is also the Golan Server, which presents a wide variety of topics with beautiful graphics and maps and allows subscribers to receive copies of "Ha'am 'Im Hagolan" [The People With the Golan] stickers from their own printers. WWW Server is found at http://www.golan.org.il

"PEACE NOW" PETITIONS THE SUPREME COURT

The "Peace Now" Movement, solicited seven individuals from the Golan to petition the Supreme Court to cease financial aid to the GRC from the two Golan councils. The main purpose of the Golan councils is to safeguard the existence of communities on the Golan Heights.

A sympathetic Supreme Court did not grant the immediate injunction requested by the petitioners but did set a date to hear the petition for May 29th.

NEWS BRIEFS

MKs Binyamin Netanyahu and Ari'el Sharon pledged their support for the Golan before a gathering of over 3,000 Likud leaders and members during a rally in the ancient city of Qatzrin during hol hamo'ed Pesah [Passover week].

Congressman Benjamin Gilman (DEM. N.Y.), chairman of the Committee for International Affairs, repeated his conviction that Congress should hold open discussions concerning the deployment of US troops to the Golan before the negotiations proceed any further, when he met with Yehuda Har'el (Third Way and GRC) this month. Gilman and others from the Foreign Affairs Committee hope for a June meeting to discuss the issue and invited Har'el to join them in Washington, at that time. After meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Secretary of State [as published] Peres and other high ranking Israeli officials, Sen. Hank Brown of the Middle East Affairs Committee returned from Washington, reporting that although Israeli leadership is pro-withdrawal, he is more convinced than ever that Israel should remain on the Golan.

VISITORS TO THE GOLAN

In the past month, GRC has welcomed the Reformed Church of Switzerland, representatives from the US Embassy in Israel, Leaders of US Women's ORT [Organization for Rehabilitaton through Training], Rabbis from 50 cities in Israel, JINSA [Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs], members of the German Parliament, Donors to Sha'arey Tzedeq Hospital, Hebrew teachers from Mexico, and cadets and personnel from the Israeli Foreign Office. New 'olim [immigrants] from France, Ethiopia and Russia also joined GRC volunteers for a special class on the importance of the Golan to Israel as well as high school students from several schools in Israel who learned about the Golan as a part of their curriculum. UJA [United Jewish Appeal] was well represented by women's and student's groups as well as general groups from Canada, Turkey, Uruguay and several states in the US.

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JOIN US TO SAVE THE GOLAN FOR THE SAKE OF ISRAEL

TOGETHER WE SHALL WIN

Peres on Channels to Syria To Stop Hizballah

TA2206053395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel has been using informal channels to try to convince Syria to put an end to Hizballah activities in south Lebanon. Speaking in Haifa last night, Peres said Syria's position at official talks has been that Lebanon is an independent country. On the upcoming talks between Israeli and Syrian senior military officers, Peres said that the same obstacles lay before us, but he also said that Syria is in no position to declare a war against Israel. Regarding the Palestinian track, Peres said a supreme effort is being made by Israel and the PLO and that it is still possible to reach the 1 July target date for concluding the interim phase agreement. Sylvia Leif reports:

[Begin recording] [Leif] Shim'on Peres dismissed rumors that the agreement will not take place on 1 July. He stressed that every effort is being made to meet the target date.

[Peres] We are making a supreme effort to meet the target date. We still have a few days to negotiate. It's normal that toward the end of the negotiations there is an air of crisis and negotiations, but there is still a chance to meet the target date, though I cannot assure it fully and completely.

[Leif] Peres said an agreement with Syria and Lebanon will end the state of war in the Middle East. The Syrians, he said, have decided to part from war. He explained that they are in no condition to declare war against Israel.

[Peres] I think that the option of war in reality doesn't exist. Since the end of the Cold War there is no superpower that is ready to supply modern weapons for an additional war. It is very difficult to make a war if you don't have the best of the weapons, and then there are no reasons to do so. So I think the war option in many ways is either over or postponed.

[Leif] Concerning the defense of the Golan Heights in return for peace, Peres had this to say:

[Peres] The purpose is not to get down from the chances of peace and not to get down from the Golan Heights. We know we shall have to pay for peace and that maybe a very painful cost, but the purpose is not to abandon the Golan Heights, but to attain peace between us and the Syrians. [end recording]

Peres on Meeting With Crown Prince Hasan

TA2206113095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 22 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Elat by political correspondent Shlomo Raz in the Jerusalem studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Raz] You met with Crown Prince Hasan today to discuss an array of issues relating to the two countries: water, scientific, and technological cooperation. Simple issues, so why did the meeting have such a low profile?

[Peres] I do not know how to create a high profile. I had planned to visit Elat, so the prince suggested that on the way I stop over in Amman. What used to be a fairy tale is now a short flight. We met at 8 A.M. We met for about two hours, of which 30 minutes was tete-a-tete. I am now talking to you from Elat. We have a very long list of things to coordinate, starting with the preparations for the Amman conference, water, joint projects, building plans. Each time the agenda grows and is enriched. I found a very good atmosphere. Contrary to all reports, the prince told me that they understand that the fruits of the peace cannot be plucked from one day to the next. Peace is more like an apple tree than a tomato plant. Time has to pass.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, what interests us mostly, of course, is your tete-a-tete meeting with the crown prince.

[Peres] Do you want me to tell you exactly what each one said?

[Raz] The main points will suffice.

[Peres] No.

[Raz] You made a short trip to Amman today. When will we see Prince Hasan or perhaps King Husayn in Israel?

[Peres] I think that he is waiting for the right opportunity, and we are now coordinating a location and time for him to appear publicly.

[Raz] The crown prince or the king?

[Peres] I spoke with the prince.

Peres, Liba'i Meet on Entry Regulations for Jordanians

TA2106173195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Interior Minister David Liba'i met this

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afternoon with officials from the Defense Ministry to discuss ways to cut through red tape that has held up granting Jordanians entry into Israel.

The ministers agreed that requests from Jordanians to visit Israel should be dealt with in the same manner as requests from other citizens of countries with whom Israel has full diplomatic relations.

In that case, visas to Israel would be issued at the consulate in Amman, requiring more manpower. It was decided that a team headed by the deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry would come up with new procedures and an appropriate budget to speed the process.

Rabin Rejects Call To Compensate Gaza for Closure

TA2206113995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday rejected Histadrut Chairman Hayim Ramon's suggestion that Israel provide NIS [new Israeli shekels] 700 million in assistance to Gaza to make up for the negative economic impact of the closure.

Rabin said Israel has provided assistance, but the rest of the world also has an obligation. "For many years the world lectured us on the Palestinian issue and now that we are dealing with it, they cannot escape their responsibility," he said.

He noted that at the recent meeting of donor countries that was called to try to make up the Palestinian Authority's budget deficit for this year, the countries failed to cover half of it. Rabin took exception at the Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, for having failed to produce their portion of the funds.

Nevertheless, Rabin noted the situation in the Gaza Strip is improving. According to Norway's foreign minister who recently visited, one can already see the beginning of a recovery in Gaza.

Rabin, however, shared Ramon's concern for ensuring that the peace agreements translate into economic benefits to the people. He pointed with frustration at the inability of the US Congress to get the legislation through to forgive $300m. in loans to Jordan and $100m. in military aid.

"Peace has opened enormous opportunities, even though we are limited today," said Rabin. He pointed out how the new reality has opened beyond our current economic ability to keep up with it.

Rabin said he did not understand why Israel's trade deficit is growing, especially since it derives mostly from purchases from Europe, whose goods are very expensive due to the steep drop in the dollar. However, private consumption is jumping and people are still buying expensive European goods.

"With all the complaints, people have money," he said.

Police 'Ready' To Release Hundreds of Prisoners

TA2206112195 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jun 95 p 19

[Report by Roni Shaqed, David Regev, and Itamar Eichner]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will be ready to release several hundred Palestinian prisoners as a goodwill gesture before the interim agreement is signed. This has been announced by defense sources, who stressed that Israel will not accede to the Palestinians' demand to release all the prisoners.

The security prisoners' hunger strike is into its fifth day today. Thousands of Gaza Strip residents, including Palestinian Authority chief Yasir 'Arafat, yesterday staged a hunger strike for a few hours in solidarity with the prisoners.

Following coordination among various organizations, the strike was joined also by the inmates of detention facilities and prisons that had earlier stayed out of the strike. Today Gaza Strip residents plan to stop traffic for five minutes of silence.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said yesterday: "There will be no surrender to the hunger strikers, and their ultimatum will be rejected." He asserted that "Israel will not release prisoners who are opposed to the peace process and who threaten to torpedo it."

Minister Shahal made these remarks in a reply to five motions to the agenda on the hunger-strike issue submitted by right- and left-wing Knesset members.

IDF Says Redeployment To Cost 3 Billion Shekels

TA2206065995 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 95

[Economic affairs correspondent Uri Ginosar video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The defense establishment today astonished the prime minister and the finance minister by demanding a supplementary budget of 720 million shekels this year to fund the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories. It appears that the evacuation will cost 3 billion shekels, three times

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the previous assessment. Our economic affairs correspondent Uri Ginosar reports:

[Begin recording] [Ginosar] The army chiefs pulled new and large figures out of their bags today. The IDF withdrawal from West Bank town centers was supposed to cost 1 billion shekels, but today it came about that the army is asking for 3 billion shekels. Of that amount, it wants another 720 million shekels this year, in addition to the 370 million shekels it has already received.

The discussions in the Prime Minister's Office were excellently timed from the defense establishment's point of view: They were held one day after Rabin and Peres saw with their own eyes the significance of the pullout during a field tour.

In this morning's deliberations, the Treasury representatives said the amounts are exaggerated and threaten Israel's economy. Nevertheless, it is clear that the Treasury will have to give the army more money than it had planned. The finance minister does not want to increase the budget deficit, opposes the imposition of a special compulsory loan, and will do all he can to prevent the abolition of the tax reform.

If that is the case, then there will be no choice but to cut accounts in the current state budget, such as education, social welfare, and infrastructure.

[Shohat] We must take into account that what was discussed here today will not only have significance for the defense budget, but also for the Israeli Government in its 1996 budgetary deliberations.

[Ginosar] In another two-and-a-half weeks the government will start deliberations on the state budget for 1996, which is an election year, and the ministers will have to make a major decision: Whether to cut items close to the hearts, and even more importantly, the pockets of the voters, because of the ministers' desire to advance the peace accords. [end recording]

At a meeting of Labor ministers today, the prime minister said they have to prepare for budget cuts. The ministers have already expressed dissatisfaction with such a move, our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 21 June adds: "Prime Minister Rabin said that the country will have to invest $250,000 to protect each family in some of the smaller settlements in Judaea and Samaria. These funds, he said, are a heavy burden on the state budget, and will be taken from vital areas, such as tourism, industry, and research. The prime minister made the remarks to the annual convention of the Israel Management Center."]

'Peace Now' $3 Billion Plan To Compensate Settlers

TA2206075695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Peace Now movement has drafted a $3 billion plan to compensate Israelis who leave the Golan, Judaea and Samaria, and Gaza. According to the plan, each family that moves inside the Green Line will have the option of receiving a sum of about $100,000 to $150,000, an apartment, or a plot of land.

Several Jewish settlers met last night in Jerusalem with Peace Now. Afterwards, they said they would set up a committee to negotiate with the government about compensation.

Government Blamed for Clinton Embassy Move Veto

TA2206141895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jun 95 pp 6

[Editorial: "Appeasement on Jerusalem"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a surprise step, the Clinton administration has positioned itself squarely against Congress's intention to start building the American embassy in Jerusalem next year. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's letter warning Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole that a resolution calling for the embassy transfer would prompt a presidential veto seems aimed at stopping the bandwagon for the move. To date, 55 senators have signed on the bill, initiated by Jon Kyl of Arizona and presented to the Senate on May 9 by Dole. Sixty-seven votes are needed to override a presidential veto.

Admitting that President Bill Clinton himself has promised to move the embassy — it was an explicit and unequivocal election pledge — Christopher rationalizes the threat of a veto by stating that nothing should be allowed to get in the way of the peace process in "an especially delicate period." Implying that Washington's credibility would be damaged if the bill passes, he states, "Few actions would be more explosive and harmful to these efforts than for the US, as the key sponsor of this process, to be pushing the Jerusalem issue forward."

But it is disingenuous to suggest that a decision not to move the embassy will not be prejudicial. The reason the issue is "explosive" is that the PLO has threatened that it would "kill the process." To yield to this threat is to make every move the PLO dislikes hostage to the threat of "explosion."

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The proposed move of the US embassy does not change the status of Jerusalem: The embassy is to be located in the western part of the city. But acquiescence to the demand not to move it at this time implies that even the fate of this part of Jerusalem is to be determined only in the final status negotiations with the PLO. It is not an impression the Clinton administration should be making.

Officials of AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee], the "Jewish lobby" in Washington, have said that they will continue their efforts to sign up senators for the bill. They obviously feel that the move has the support of the vast majority of American Jews. Some Washington observers believe that the administration's move is only a ploy aimed at forcing a compromise on the bill, which they believe will be achieved before September.

But in threatening a veto, the message the administration must be heeding more than any other is Israel's thunderous silence. The subject of Jerusalem, on which the government is professing immovable determination, seems to have become an embarrassment. There is, to be sure, continuing lip service to the slogan "an undivided Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty," but instead of giving the Dole bill the whole-hearted support it deserves, the government has been treating it as a piece of legislation about a remote town in Outer Mongolia.

The government has also been sending signals from Jerusalem itself which point to a less-than-total resoluteness. In an abject surrender to pressure from its Arab coalition partners and King Husayn, it has forfeited the right to expropriate land in Jerusalem. In another surrender — to naked violence — it has suspended the demolition of illegally built houses in the city. And, yielding to the familiar threats that the peace process would collapse if it took action, it has given tacit approval to the growing activities and rising profile of "Orient House" and other official Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem.

True, none of these surrenders have anything to do with Israel's sovereignty in western Jerusalem, which is what the move proposed in the Senate would recognize. But it is difficult to expect Washington to be more determined about resisting Arab threats on the Jerusalem issue than Israel seems to be. One can only hope that the US Senate will understand what the government has been unable to realize ever since it signed the Oslo agreement: that no real peace can be achieved through appeasement.

Knesset Rejects Bill Designed To Prevent NPT Signing

TA2206122695 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Arye Dayan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset plenum yesterday voted down Tzomet Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Peled's private bill designed "to shackle the State of Israel's nuclear status." MK Peled proposed to pass legislation ensuring that "any change in Israel's nuclear status" should require the support of at least 90 MK's. Peled's written bill clarification stated that he meant to prevent the government from signing the international Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Sixteen MK's voted for and 19 voted against Peled's bill.

The nuclear issue, Peled told the plenum, "is an apolitical question, and it is the State of Israel's last line of defense." He further explained that he had decided to propose the law because he feared the government might surrender to Egypt's pressure and agree to sign the NPT.

"We have not surrendered, and we will not surrender," Justice Minister David Liba'i said in his reply on behalf of the government. "Some things require no legislation, merely common sense."

Poll: Levi Candidacy Could Hurt Netanyahu Campaign

TA2106111895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Jun 95 p 2

[ITIM Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu would receive 39 percent and 38 percent of the vote, respectively, if elections were held now, a poll conducted by Dr. Mina Tzemah for Channel 1 has found. In the first round, Rabin would get 37 percent, with only 27 percent for Netanyahu, due to a loss of votes to David Levi. In a second round contest between Rabin and Netanyahu, however, the two are virtually tied.

The poll also found that the Labor Party would receive 36 mandates, Likud 34, Meretz 8, Tsomet 7, David Levi 5, a party headed by Ahmad al-Tibi 3-4, the Third Way 3-4, immigrants party 3, and HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] 3.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 21 June publishes on page A2 a similar report by 'Irit Rosenblum and ITIM adding: "The poll also surveyed the public's view of Rabin's and Netanyahu's intrinsic qualities, and

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found that Rabin beats Netanyahu by a large margin in every area. For example: persuasiveness — 42:28; personal integrity — 43:26; and withstanding pressures — 41:34." All figures given in percents.]

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Minister Confirms Submission of Resignation

MM2106130795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, Jordanian minister of state for cabinet affairs, has confirmed that he has officially submitted his resignation to the prime minister.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 'Izz-al-Din said: "It must be made clear that that the resignation is not the result of disagreements or anything of that kind at all. The reason is purely constitutional." [passage omitted]

Daily Commends U.S. Reiteration of Scrapping Debts

JN2206084795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jun 95 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Renewal of U.S. Pledge To Relieve Jordan of its Debts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, has done well when he reiterated yesterday that the United States will honor its former pledge to relieve Jordan of its debts and that it will seek other avenues to extend assistance to Jordan and other countries in the region that are committed to establishing peace.

This new American confirmation is important probably due to the fact that it comes amid current preparations to convene the Amman economic summit in late October. This important economic event is expected to be a great milestone on the road to building a peace that can produce tangible material gains for the region's peoples.

Thus the Amman economic summit, which represents a concerted international endeavor to boost the peace process, will create a new atmosphere and fresh zeal. This will attract investment to the Middle East, accelerate economic development on the basis of a partnership between the public and private sectors, and increase the number of those who will benefit from the ongoing peace process.

There is no doubt that a more effective U.S. role in the peace process is commendable. It is even an indispensable requirement to encourage the parties concerned to continue to proceed with courage and great confidence which will crystallize especially when the region's peoples see tangible U.S. steps in this regard, like extending financial and technical aid to Jordan which has, from the start, been looking forward to giving peace its full economic dimension.

We hope to see practical implementation as soon as possible of this frequently made U.S. pledge to relieve Jordan of its debts. We also hope that all parties concerned with the future of the peace process will do their utmost to improve the atmosphere of this process and avoid all that may arouse any party's fears vis-a-vis its future after the end of the peace process.

Paper Cites 'Differences' With Israel on Agreements

JN2206095395 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 22 Jun 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AKHBAR AL-USBU' — Authoritative Jordanian sources have disclosed that Jordan has refused to fix a border mark at a spot north of the Jordanian-Israeli border that was suggested by Israel, which prepared for a small ceremony to inaugurate it.

The sources said Israel asked that the mark be fixed one meter into Jordanian territory, which means that Israel has violated its commitment to return all the occupied Jordanian territories. Therefore, the Jordanian side rejected the Israeli suggestion and the ceremony was called off.

The incident did not stir any clamor in the Jordanian and Israeli media. The two sides will hold tough negotiations again over one square meter.

The disagreement over this one meter follows Jordanian-Israeli differences over the trade and economic agreement, which prompted the two sides to delay its endorsement pending the introduction of changes to it that would greatly weaken it if the Israelis insisted on setting up free trade between Jordan and Israel and Jordan insisted that this is premature. Jordan has proposed setting up free zones instead of free trade, because the Jordanian economy is not up to the level of the Israeli economy.

In addition, there are differences between Jordan and Israel over the cultural and educational agreement. Israel insists on expediting the normalization of relations, while the Jordanian side wants slow normalization.

The Israeli Government has submitted a complaint to the Jordanian Government, saying that there are responsible and official Jordanian elements that are fighting and obstructing the normalization of relations with Israel. These elements are waiting for progress on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks with Israel as a condition for progress on the Jordanian track.

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Paper: Israel's Non-Redeployment 'Serious Indication'

JN2206103695 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Jun 95 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Security and Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again the Israeli Government has shirked the implementation of the agreements its signed with the PLO — agreements which the world thought would usher in an era of peace in the Middle East in which people would have an opportunity to live away from bloody violence.

Israel's announcement that the 1 July deadline for beginning the redeployment of its occupation troops is inconvenient coincides with the hunger strike of the Palestinian prisoners in occupation prisons — a strike which was staged to protest Israel's procrastination in releasing them as stipulated in its agreements with the PLO.

The postponement of the occupation troops' redeployment once again — one year after the date agreed on in Oslo — is a serious indication that the agreements that were concluded can be violated for reasons that can easily be fabricated and floated. It also raises doubts that these agreements will achieve the results for which they were concluded.

Jordan, which thought that Israel's agreement with the PLO was the beginning of a new stage in which the Arab countries can conclude their own peace agreements [with Israel], believes that lack of compliance with this basic agreement is a violation of the entire peace process and an indication that what has been achieved thus far may be prone to collapse.

The Israeli claim that this violation of deadlines is for security considerations is contradictory. Security cannot be attained through abstention from conducting redeployment nor through continuation of detaining Palestinians under extemely harsh conditions. Rather, it can be realized through commitment to the agreements that would lead to genuine peace, which the region's peoples are seeking to achieve. Only peace can bring security. Thus we have sought peace, and we have to achieve it.

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Qasim on U.S. 'Impotence' Against Hizballah

MM2106112595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 95 p 2

[Report on interview with Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim by Muhammad Shuqayr in Beirut on 19 June]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Secretary General of the Hizballah Party Shaykh Na'im Qasim has affirmed that the statement attributed to a high-ranking U.S. official (published in AL-HAYAH the day before yesterday) in which he said that the U.S. Administration considers the party a terrorist organization due to its current behavior, thereby refusing it any role in Lebanon or in the internal reconciliation operation, "indicates Washington's evident inability to convince the Lebanese state to adopt the propositions made by an American official who had asked not to be named."

Speaking of the peace settlement, Shaykh Qasim said: "In our reckoning the settlement cannot be achieved between now and the end of the American and Israeli elections."

Qasim, who was speaking to AL-HAYAH yesterday, added: "In our reckoning, the Americans usually resort to indirect methods to pressure those who oppose them both in Lebanon and outside it. When they fail to achieve their aims, they find themselves forced to face up to them directly, as they have done with Hizballah."

He disclosed that "as a result of their experiences in Lebanon, the Americans have repeatedly contacted Lebanese officials and asked them to take measures and actions to prevent Hizballah from carrying out any activities and also to halt Islamic resistance operations against the Israeli occupation."

Shaykh Qasim added: "When Washington had lost all hope of achieving this objective due to the fact that the party has grown, become acceptable in political life, and begun to play a fundamental role, it found itself forced to embark on a different type of political offensive, the main features of which have begun to manifest themselves through the assumption of this role directly and without any sense of shame by the U.S. charge d'affaires in Beirut, Ron Schlicher."

Shaykh Qasim pointed out that the direct U.S. information campaign [against Hizballah] "began to assume a political and media character when U.S. Embassy circles in Beirut began to leak information to the effect that Washington is opposed to the party's representation on the new [Lebanese] Government. We are aware that the U.S. Embassy did this directly, and took it upon itself to leak this information to a number of information media.

"Furthermore, Washington was not content with the political and media campaign led by Shleiger but went still further on this course through Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, who spoke during his visit to Beirut about the need for the promulgation of laws governing what he called terrorism and the exertion of efforts to prohibit it through parliament, with the aim of pushing parliament to promulgate legislation in this regard."

Shaykh Qasim went on to say that "Washington's decision to come out into the open was due to the impotence that has befallen it following the direct contacts it embarked upon as part of a campaign of instigation against the party and the Islamic resistance." He said that he believes that this direct American offensive will also be to no avail and that the statements made by Pelletreau and later by the American official through the pages of the newspaper AL-HAYAH reflect the truth about America's impotence in the face of the Hizballah Party, which derives its popularity from its growing role in resisting the occupation and from its truthfulness with the people as well as from the fact that its popularity is not based on internal political equations or on people who follow certain quarters. "For this reason, we believe that America's campaign will be hopeless and futile even now. Indeed, it is a source of great honor to us to see the United States so bent on trying to bring pressure to bear on the party, a matter which indicates that our course is a sound one, otherwise why should this arrogant power show so much concern about the party and the resistance and embark on a campaign of instigation against it?"

Shaykh Qasim pointed out: "We will not comment on the statement of the American official who was described as high-ranking and who asked not to be named. What he said is of no concern to us and will not affect our course of confronting the occupation and its lackeys internally. It is the duty of the Lebanese state to prevent Washington from persisting with its interference in our internal affairs. We refer his statement to the [Lebanese] officials to deal with it. For their part, the people will watch and bring the officials to task.

"As to us, this overt American step will only help to intensify our determination, our will, and our strength to face up to the invader and reject capitulation and reach an understanding with our people in Lebanon on the need to face up to any American hegemony whatever pretext it uses to camouflage itself."

Shaykh Qasim was asked if he believed that the American campaign was timed to coincide with the possible achievement of important results on the Syrian-Israeli peace track. He replied: "In any event, the

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American campaign against us is not new. It has been going on since the Madrid Conference and even before it, a fact which proves that the Americans have decided to confront the party irrespective of the negotiations. They are now trying to pursue their campaign on the pretext that the negotiations will achieve results, basing this on their belief that this would help them to implement the measures they want.

"In any case, the Americans know that the party now constitutes a source of power for Lebanon and Syria vis-a-vis the negotiations and particularly in regard to confronting the step made by (President of the Palestinian National Authority Yasir) 'Arafat and his henchmen followed by the Jordanian regime. Even if they ['Arafat and the Jordanians] succeed in doing something through the capitulationist solution, we do not feel that they are capable of achieving what they aspire to and they will soon find that there was nothing to be gained from their action."

Shaykh Qasim said that he believes Pelletreau's talk about the possible activation of the negotiations on the Lebanese-Israeli track was being used as a cover for the campaign of instigation being waged against Hizballah. This is because Pelletreau falsely believes that he can open the dossier of the party, instead of our insistence on opening the American dossier and the dossier of the American role in the region, starting with its support for the Zionist entity's daily attacks on our kith and kin and our people. Indeed, the activation of the peace process cannot be through the information media and the raising of such a clamor. The Americans know full well that the Lebanese track will only begin to move when the Syrian peace track moves."

He affirmed that "Lebanon has one demand only, and it is the one declared by all pillars of the Lebanese state. It is based on the need for the withdrawal of Israel from Southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa'. If no such withdrawal takes place, then all talk about the activation of the Lebanese track will be meaningless."

Asked about the presence of several currents within the Hizballah Party, Shaykh Qasim said: There is only one current and one leadership and the political statements made by the party's responsible officials fully underline this fact. When some people choose to talk about currents, they only reveal their inability to face up to the party, and this prompts them to think of creating an atmosphere of confusion, thinking that in this way they can intimidate us. The party is one solid bloc and has one view and one attitude. Had there been currents, they would have manifested themselves in formations, bases, and information stands. But none of this has happened."

Asked about the chances of peace, Shaykh Qasim said: "We have repeatedly said that the chances of settlement and nonsettlement are equally balanced. In other words, they might succeed at the level of the regimes in the future and they might fail. For this reason we always refuse to indulge in a one-sided bet which speaks of a completed settlement. Anyway, any settlement achieved will in any case be among regimes and not the peoples, who reject it. Thus it cannot succeed at the popular level, a fact which makes the detonation fuse ready for explosion during the future stages."

He added: "Taking into account all eventualities, we in our structure prepare ourselves for the worst so that we will not be taken by surprise by any probability, despite the fact that the probabilities are equally balanced in our view.

"At least in our estimation, no settlement can be achieved between now and the end of the American and Israeli elections."

Asked what the Hizballah Party's attitude would be should Syria approve a settlement, Shaykh Qasim said: "As we are active and in alliance with the brothers in Syria in the present difficult stage, there is no fear or danger whatever happens in the future stages, as we can always find adequate ways to continue cooperation under the most difficult and darkest conditions."

Asked about the party's reaction in the case of Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon without any political conditions attached, Shaykh Qasim said: "Let the Israelis withdraw unconditionally, then we will consider this one of the achievements of the resistance and the Lebanese people. As to the other details, they can be raised when the time comes."

Speaking of the objectives of the American offensive and the extent of its connection with preventing the party from reaping the fruits of the end of the occupation, Shaykh Qasim said that "the American offensive was part of a plan aimed at confronting the party to the point of its elimination, if the Americans could. But we, too, have our own steps which will further affirm and consolidate our existence and political presence in the arena and the region particularly as the past years have proven that we are constantly advancing and winning popular support. They have their plans and we have ours and the effect of any actions lie in the conclusions they achieve. We believe that the level of our assets in this country will not permit either the high-ranking American official or Mr. Pelletreau to write us off with one stroke of the pen as they imagine."

Shaykh Qasim added: "What the U.S. Administration hopes for will remain mere ink on paper and will

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not find its way to implementation. The talk we have heard constitutes nothing but a sign of impotence, as Washington is trying to boost its morale through the media to justify its inability to realize what it had threatened to do.

"Our role in the resistance has given us a basis such that it would be difficult for the United States, or anyone else for that matter, to think or dream henceforth of being able to destroy this basis or annul the party. If they want to continue to exert pressure, that is up to them, but it will not lead to the results sought by the others. The time when the others could talk of annulment has passed, for now we are living in times of objective power that has proved itself and its credibility. What cannot be changed internally cannot be uprooted by external decisions taken by the U.S. Administration."

Shaykh Qasim pointed out that "Hizballah is no longer a piece of paper that can be sold and exchanged at any time. Indeed, it essentially has never been so. Experience has shown that America thinks much, plans much, but fails much as well. I believe that the decision taken by the administration of the American University [of Beirut] concerning the students who were unable to pay their university installments falls within the framework of the political offensive." He added: "The action taken by the University's administration is a political and not academic or legal action. There can be no justification for preventing 20 students from sitting the exams on the grounds that they were five days late in paying their installments."

He blamed the administration of the American University for the nonimplementation of the personal and direct pledge made by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to the University administration promising to cover the installments due. He added: "This attitude by the American University administration can mean nothing other than an attempt to impose the University administration's political presence so that it can say we have taken such a decision and we can prevent anything or any activity. But I believe that the result has worked against them because Lebanese officials starting from the President of the Republic through the government and Minister of the Interior Michel al-Murr to the partisan and political forces have denounced this action, which lacked any academic justification, a fact which forced us to respond politically to it."

Shaykh Qasim was asked about Hizballah's preparations for dealing with the probable return of peace to the region. He replied: "It is our duty as a party not to formulate our positions, capabilities, and performance on the basis of one probability, but on several probabilities that might take place in the future. We possess the perception and realism that enable us to prepare ourselves for facing up to all probabilities. We are now preparing ourselves for facing up to this stage. Thus we have our measures and our answers ready for dealing with all eventualities."

Asked what is the nature of the party's answers for dealing with probabilities of peace, Shaykh Qasim said: "We have already said that we do not base our policy on a one-sided eventuality. We study and follow up matters so that we would be ready to deal with all eventualities. I believe that our measures will be ready at the proper time, but I will not reveal them now. Anyway it has become evident to all that the party reads things well and acts well and calculates well. Anyone who possesses such an integrated outlook can never go wrong or become confused whatever happens."

In conclusion, Shaykh Qasim said: "I say to the American Administration that if it was capable of imposing what it has said and continues to say, it would not have resorted to the card of direct instigation and it will find no one to respond to or show a desire for sympathy with such propositions. Consequently, we are in no need of a certificate of good character from Washington with regard to the national and Islamic role we are playing in standing up to occupation and its tools. The United States will find out that it will not be able to find anyone to propagate or sponsor what it says."

Dallul Says Resistance 'Legitimate Right'

NC2106162195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The south preoccupied officials today. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri reviewed events with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, who said the Lebanese Army is prepared to face anything. Dallul stressed that the Lebanese and Syrian tracks are parallel, noting that Lebanon will sign no agreement with Israel before Syria. He said we are in a strong position because we have rights. He said resistance is the legitimate right of a people when their land is occupied.

Buwayz Briefed on Lebanese Detainees in Israel

NC2106165295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today met Muhammad Safa, secretary of the follow-up committee in support of Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons. Safa informed Buwayz that the Lebanese detainees in enemy prisons have begun a hunger strike in solidarity with Palestinian detainees. Buwayz informed Safa that French President Jacques Chirac raised the is-

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sue of the Lebanese detainees and called for their release during his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

SLA Members Injured by Bombs; al-Nabatiyah Shelled

NC2106113595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the wake of earlier Israeli attacks, a state of extreme caution prevails in the villages of south Lebanon and western al-Biqa' that are adjacent to the occupied border strip. Near these villages one can see Israeli movements that show that the Israeli enemy is reinforcing its positions opposite the liberated villages. [passage omitted]

REUTER has cited a security source in the south as saying that five members of the militia that collaborates with Israel were injured today by the detonation of two explosive devices placed by the resistance fighters. The source reported that one device exploded at the headquarters of the army of the agent Lahd [South Lebanese Army, SLA] in Hula this morning, wounding four troops. An earlier device exploded under a military vehicle belonging to Israel's agents while it was passing on a road in the Jazzin area. The explosion wounded one of the passengers. [passage omitted]

We have also learned that al-Nabatiyah has been coming under heavy artillery bombardment from the Israeli positions for some time. A building near the town's government offices and the al- Rahibat neighborhood have sustained hits. The army's deserted barracks in al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa was also the target of shelling.

Ambulances have rushed to al-Nabatiyah to recover those injured in the shelling. Their number is not yet known.

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Greek Defense Minister, Delegation Arrive on Visit

Al-Asad Receives Delegation

JN2006150695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Greek National Defense Minister Yerasimos Arsenis and the delegation accompanying him at the People's Palace at 1230 today. The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; and the Greek ambassador in Damascus.

Mr. Arsenis relayed to his excellency the president the greetings of Greek President Kostis Stephanopoulos and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. For his part, his excellency the president asked the Greek minister to relay his greetings and best wishes to President Stephanopoulos, Prime Minister Papandreou, and the Greek people.

The talks addressed the situation in the Mediterranean basin, the Balkans, and the Middle East region. They also touched on the peace process and bilateral ties.

Defense Working Groups Formed

NC2006192395 Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek 20 Jun 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Greek National Defense Minister Yerasimos Arsenis, who is on an official visit to Damascus, today will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Yesterday Arsenis met with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, to whom he conveyed a personal message from Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. Both men viewed Greek-Syrian relations, focusing their discussion mostly on issues of economy, defense, and development. The Greek minister also conveyed to Zu'bi Greece's willingness to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem. He accepted the Syrian prime minister's proposal that Greece participate in the peace force that will be deployed in the Golan Heights, provided that a peace plan is first signed between Syria and Israel. Zu'bi described Greece as the friendliest country toward Syria, after the Arab countries.

On Sunday Arsenis met with his Syrian counterpart, Mustafa Talas. The two men decided to form two mixed working groups aiming to find ways of cooperation in the defense industry. They also decided to examine the possibilities of the Greek Vehicles Industry and Greek Aircraft Industry providing defensive equipment to Syria and the promotion of Syrian Armed Forces training in the productive Greek military officers' schools. They also examined the possibility of common military exercises. Yesterday afternoon Arsenis visited the Patriarch Ignatios IV of Antioch and All the East. After the visit with the patriarch was concluded, Arsenis answered a question on Ankara's fears on the Greek contacts in Syria. He stressed: "Turkey has no reason to worry about the Greek contacts in Syria, since it is interested, like us, in peace and stability in the wider region. If, however, Turkey has in mind any adventurous practices, then it has every reason to be concerned." [passage omitted]

Commentary Lauds Agreement of Understanding on Security

JN2106141895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Those following the developments of the peace process in the region and the positive efforts being exerted to achieve a just, comprehensive peace are aware that Syria is absolutely eager to make the peace process succeed. Adhering to the basic principles and pillars of a just solution, Syria is tangibly proving its insistence on and response to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the bases on which the peace process has been launched, especially the principle of restoring land in return for peace.

Stressing the need for full commitment to the requirements of genuine peace, Syria proceeds from the premise that the achievement of peace is in everyone's interest, and that it is impermissible for any party to make gains or ensure its security at the expense of the other party. From this premise, the basic pillar of the peace sought by Syria is the termination of the occupation and the restoration of rights and the usurped territories in the Golan and southern Lebanon. This is the only guarantee for the establishment of a viable peace. Syria's call for the withdrawal of Israeli troops to the 4 June 1967 lines is nothing but a translation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. The peace process, which has been continuing for three years and eight months, was launched on the basis of those resolutions.

For right and justice to be established and for the region to enter an era of stability and security, Syria responded to international efforts, led by the efforts of the U.S. sponsor, on the basis of ensuring equitable [mutakafi'ah], parallel [mutawaziyah], and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements on the two sides of the 4 June line. This is because peace, as seen by Syria, must be based on justice and acknowledging the rights of others, something which means the end of aggression

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and occupation. This is the peace for the sake of which international political efforts are being exerted.

The world and the international community have realized through experience, events, and lessons that responsibly dealing with the requirements of peace is the only way to put an end to regional tension and to ensure everone's security and tranquility in this region. When it spells out the demands and conditions for a real peace, Syria would not be making impossible conditions. Instead, it is only making objective and natural demands, the essence of which is eagerness about the success of the peace process and the bases of which are the UN Security Council resolutions and the international community's desire for the establishment of a peace that ensures the dignity and rights of all parties.

Syria has always stressed that peace is a strategic option. Syria has associated words with deeds and saved the peace process from repeated impasses, proceeding from its eagerness to save the peace process from any Israeli obstacles or pretexts to hinder the peace efforts. The agreement of understanding on the principles of security arrangements between Syria and Israel, under the supervision and sponsorship of the United States, was a step in the right direction. It constitutes a new test for Israel as to whether it wants a genuine peace or not. The touchstone is Israel's commitment to full withdrawal as well as its ensuring equitability and parallelism in security arrangements as a prerequisite for the establishment of a just and durable peace.

Papers: Washington Meeting 'Litmus Test' for Israel

JN2206082595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 22 Jun 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN says many international political quarters have repeatedly called on the international community, primarily the United States and Europe, to put real pressure on Israel and not extend funds and weapons to it before it submits to the authority of international law and the Security Council resolutions.

The paper adds: All these quarters believe that financial and military support for Israel encourages it to evade peace and its obligations in the region. The paper comments on an appeal by Yosi Beilin, Israeli deputy foreign minister, to the European group not to expedite aid to Syria or lift the ban on arms exports to it at present. The paper says this appeal aims at reversing facts, so it may appear as if Israel is running after peace while Syria is not doing so.

TISHRIN says the entire world has acknowledged the sincerity of Syria's stands and its serious efforts to achieve peace. The world has also seen how Israel abandons principles and charters. Israel has even violated the agreements it has signed.

The paper stresses that Syria firmly supports a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and believes that peace serves its true interests and those of the other parties. The upcoming Washington meeting between the military officers is a litmus test for Israel and its response to the obligations of peace.

AL-THAWRAH says full Israeli withdrawal is the key to real progress before moving to the actual implementation of the set of understandings on security arrangements in a balanced [mutawazinah], equal [mutasawiyah], and equitable [mutakafi'ah] manner on both sides of the 4 June 1967 lines.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel must confirm its goodwill and credibility in the Washington talks at the level of military and political experts. The political arguments propagated by the media must be settled, so the residents of Israel may realize the facts of peace. Those residents were previously imbued with the spirit of aggression, adherence to occupation, expansion, and settlement at the expense of the Arab land and rights.

The paper notes that if the Rabin government is planning to leave wide room for maneuvering and procrastination, devise ways to escape the peace commitments, and propagate false ideas which were not reached as part of the security arrangements, then this will be a very serious matter. Consequently, this will preclude real progress on the path of peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Peace in its objective requirements, primarily full withdrawal, is a conviction that should be translated into action, which is the touchstone.

AL-BA'TH says Warren Christopher, chief of U.S. diplomacy, has warned of the dangers of transferring the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This shows high awareness of the requirements of peace. This is a sound position required by the efforts under way to reconcile peace and its conditions.

AL-BA'TH adds: The U.S. position has clarified part of the dangers of such a step, which will undermine the peace plan in the region. The peace-loving forces worldwide are required to condemn and denounce such calls directly or indirectly, as Secretary Christopher did in his letter to the majority leader in Congress.

The paper concludes: Sponsorship of peace in the Middle East assigns a moral and historic responsibility

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to the United States. Therefore, exposing those sides that obstruct peace is the best way to sponsor peace if one seeks to achieve international, regional, and domestic prosperity. Will Christopher's warning be a beginning to reveal the drawbacks of going too far in implementing the propaganda of the deceivers — the enemies of peace and freedom?

Commentary Reiterates Strategic Stand on Peace

JN2206110995 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1757 GMT 21 Jun 95

["Behind the News" feature by Yusuf Maqdisi; read by Raja Farzali]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good evening, gentlemen: When leader President Hafiz al-Asad announces on behalf of Syria that peace is Syria's strategic option, he is embodying the will of its people who seriously seek peace. This was further confirmed when Former President George Bush announced his 7 March 1991 initiative stating that the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 is the basis for a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Syria supported this initiative and contributed to defining the bases of the Madrid Conference and the ensuing talks in Washington with U.S. participation.

Over the past three and half years, Syria has done all it can to help the peace process achieve progress, contrary to Israel which barricaded itself behind the conditional yes when the government of Yitzhaq Shamir, the leader of the Likud, was in office and behind the ambiguous and conflicting stands, and the policy of separate deals during the term of the Labor government under Yitzhaq Rabin.

Syria wants peace and works for it; a peace that ends occupation, threats, and designs, and guarantees equal [mutasawi] security for all parties to the conflict, and not a fake peace that gives benefits to one party at the expense of the other under flimsy pretexts such as the pretext of security, as if Israeli security is above peace, divine norms and legal considerations.

The international community, particularly the cosponsors of the peace process, became convinced with Syria's stand, and U.S. President Clinton and his Secretary of State Christopher affirmed more than once that Syria is serious toward the peace process and that it plays a key role in this field. Thus, Israel's intransigence is no longer easily accepted, nor are its attempts to deceive the world with the Israeli pretexts and the pressure it brings to bear on the international level on this or that party to peddle the agreements it offers that have nothing to do with the Madrid Conference's terms of reference and the U.S. initiative on whose basis the peace process was launched.

Israel's leeway for deception has started to narrow while the United States has stepped up its role toward the Syrian-Israeli track. This led to progress within the framework of the understanding on the security arrangements. The talks the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff will hold in Washington on 27 June will be the real test as to how serious Israel is in positively tackling the peace process, and in removing the obstacles it raises here and there for the purpose of procrastination and blackmail to achieve gains it very well knows Syria will not give it, no matter how much it maneuvers or seeks to evade the requirements of peace.

Gentlemen, the issue that deserves some attention here are the fabrications some of the Israeli leaders make about their commitment to peace, and the claim that Syria does not want peace. Yosi Beilin went one step further when he announced today that he has advised many European officials to stop politically, economically, and militarily promoting their relations with Syria so that it would not give up the peace process.

The word "advise" Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin used means pressure in the Israeli lexicon because Israel is displeased with the development of Syrian-European relations. It is also displeased because European countries no longer view things in the region from the Israeli perspective. This Israeli monopoly has started to dwindle as well as the line Israel has been following in the international arena for a long time on anti-Semitism, and that it is an extension of the western system and the defender of western interests in the region.

Therefore, Europe is no longer captive to this Israeli trend and Israel's wars in the region have had a negative impact on the interests of Europe which has started to realize that what draws it closer to the Arabs is far more than what distances it from them. That's why the European support for attaining peace in the region and for turning the Mediterranean into a peace lake will benefit the Arabs and Europe, and will open broader vistas for cooperation between them within the framework of mutual respect.

In short, the firmness of the Syrian stand and Syria's abidance by peace has foiled the claims Israel has been making and continues to make in the international arena to justify its occupation and to continue accusing the Arabs that they do not want peace. For the Arabs, peace is their strategic option because it ends occupation, injustice, and aggression, and highlights the facts as they really are to the international community, and reveals

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the extent of Israel's seriousness toward the attainment of just and comprehensive peace.

In light of developments and the progress of negotiations, we will not be exaggerating when we say that Israel finds itself at a crossroad; either it gives in to international legitimacy and becomes convinced that peace will bring it the equitable [mutakafi'] and equal peace, or have the world see it as the enemy of peace and international law.

Iraqi Opposition Meets in Damascus, Eulogizes 'Martyrs'

JN2206071995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi masses in Syria held a celebration last night to eulogize the righteous martyrs of al-Ramadi Governorate, who fell recently at the hands of the authorities of the Iraqi regime. The celebration was held at the al-Imam al-Sadiq shrine in al-Sayyidah Zaynab in Damascus.

The celebration began with a recitation from the holy Koran. Afterward, Shaykh Muhammad Tajir, member of the Islamic Action Organization in Iraq, delivered a speech on behalf of his organization. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Latif al-Khazazi, member of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], also delivered a speech on behalf of SAIRI. A speech was read on behalf of Talib Shabib, former Iraqi foreign minister. Abu-Rim al-Hilli, delivered a speech on behalf of the Iraqi masses.

The speakers asserted that they will not deviate from the path of the martyrs, who fell for Iraq's dignity and progress. They said they will not lay down the weapon of dignity and pride before Saddam Husayn until the downtrodden Iraqi people break free from the yoke of his rule. The speakers also stressed the need for sacrifice for human principles, hailing the heroism of the sons of al-Ramadi Governorate, who have heroically and valiantly stood up to the authorities of the Iraqi regime and purged the soil of al-Ramadi with their pure, precious blood. The speakers further said the Iraqi people are one and that injustice has afflicted all the people at the hands of Saddam Husayn. They added that the darkness that has engulfed Iraq for quite a long time must be dispelled, thanks to the courage and sacrifices of the sons of Iraq who have never hesitated to sacrifice their lives for the pride, unity, and freedom of Iraq. They also regretted the tragic events that took place in al-Ramadi Governorate, which claimed the lives of a group of the Iraqi people who reject injustice and oppression at the hands of the Baghdad regime.

The speakers stressed that it is time for the sun of freedom to respond to the shouts of the rebels and that it is time for the tree of freedom to bear fruit, having been watered by all the sons of Iraq. The speakers wondered: Should we mourn for our new martyrs, who have joined the caravan of martyrs, or celebrate as rebels the signs of a forthcoming victory, no matter how long it takes? Yes, we have to celebrate as rebels, because victory is in the offing.

Iraqi folk poet Abu-Mi'ad al-Asadi then delivered a poem in praise of the heroism of al-Ramadi sons and the sacrifices of the heroic Iraqi people.

The celebration was attended by representatives of the Iraqi opposition and a large number of Iraqi citizens who reside in Syria.

India

Article Previews U.S. Visit of Jyoti Basu

BK2106121095 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 13 Jun 95 p 4

[Article by Suman Chattopadhya]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief Minister Jyoti Basu will be going to Washington from London in just one week. He will stay in the United States for about two weeks.

Foreign visits made by the chief minister are no longer news for the people of the state. Even his visit to the United States is not particularly newsworthy as Jyoti Basu has already made two trips to that country since he became the chief minister. Jyoti Basu has made many foreign trips during the past 18 years. No other chief minister of this country has had the good fortune to make so many trips. In fact, no one has continued as chief minister of any state for such a long period. This state had always witnessed heated controversy over Jyoti Basu's foreign tours. Such a situation has not arisen in other states. The foreign trips made by the chief minister were questioned not only by the leaders of the opposition Congress-I in the state, but also by the leaders of the partners of the left front.

It cannot be said that this controversy was totally illogical. The reason for it is that Jyoti Basu always went abroad with the declared objective of bringing foreign investment to the state; however, so far he has not been very successful in this regard. Hence, for obvious reasons the question arises whether the drive to attract foreign capital investment to the state is merely a pretext. The main objective of the chief minister seems to be to spend peaceful holidays in the pleasant environment of foreign countries every year.

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It has been observed that no one, with the exception of some who are in the habit of finding fault with others, has raised any objection to Jyoti Basu's visit to the United Kingdom and the United States. There has also been no controversy over the issue even in political circles. The only logical explanation behind this shift is that this time there has been a great change in Jyoti Basu's outlook regarding his foreign tour. In fact, there was never any big question regarding the Jyoti Basu's good intentions, for he is a very pragmatic person. However, the good intentions of the chief minister have not been shared by the members of his party or the government. For this reason, local and foreign entrepreneurs, although impressed by Jyoti Basu's pragmatism, have not had the courage to invest in West Bengal. On obvious grounds, investors have expressed doubt whether it will be possible for Jyoti Basu to implement what he proposes and how far he will be successful if he does manage to implement it. This is perhaps the reason behind the chief minister's failure to attract sufficient capital investment despite the appeals made by him in this regard during his foreign trips.

There has been a dramatic change in the situation during the past year. The greatest change is that Jyoti Basu's party is supporting his initiatives for the industrialization of the state. Jyoti Basu's industrial policy was first approved by his party's state committee; then it was approved by the party's central committee, and finally by the party congress. All this have been accomplished without any major hurdles. As a result, the initiative taken to industrialize the state has won the investors' confidence. This was not possible in the past. The consensus that has been reached on this issue at the party level has already started yielding results. Until recently, industrialists used to frown when they heard the name of West Bengal, but now they no longer consider this state as an outcast and foreigners have now started showing interest. Two internationally reputed American consultancy firms — (Arthur Delittol) and Price Waterhouse have already given their verdict that West Bengal will be the most suitable place for investment in India in the future.

This means that there is a wide difference now between the West Bengal of today and that of the past when the state's representative, Jyoti Basu, made several foreign trips. Everybody has come to realize this difference. Perhaps, for this reason the current visit of Jyoti Basu to the U.K. and the United States has won the support, although undeclared, of all quarters. A consensus has been reached that for meaningful implementation of the initiatives taken for the industrialization of the state, it is imperative that the chief minister should go abroad in quest of capital. There is also a consensus that West Bengal will have to compete with other states in this regard. This is the first time that a foreign trip by Jyoti Basu aimed at attracting investment has won the support of his critics. Perhaps for this reason there was neither any suspicion nor any criticism this time regarding the chief minister's foreign visit.

No one has questioned the necessity of this trip. However, questions have been raised from all quarters of the government about whether the necessary home work has been done, particularly as the United States is involved, to make this visit successful. It is also being asked whether the necessary preparations have been made or not. The main reason why these questions have been raised is the mysterious silence of the government regarding the chief minister's itinerary in the United States. Up to now the government has not arranged any press conference to give details of the names of the persons with whom the chief minister will be meeting in the United States, the sectors from which he will seek investment, what will he say, or other related matters. If all this information had been provided, there would have been no reason for any suspicion. This simple thing did not enter the heads of the people at the state government's headquarters nor at the party headquarters of the ruling left front government. As a result, a whispering campaign has already started, even before the visit has begun, as to how far this visit will be successful.

It is true, that, unlike in the past, the chief minister is going to the United States this time after a lot of preparation. For the first time, he is taking along with him a large delegation comprising industrialists, businessmen, and company executives with a view to winning the confidence of the Americans. The concerned quarters are making efforts to arrange meetings between the chief minister and leading American industrialists who are enthusiastic about India. At this moment, it cannot be said whether these efforts will be sufficient, since the country in question is the United States.

There is no doubt that capitalist countries think that the pace of economic reforms in India is inadequate. This was categorically stated by the prime minister of Singapore, Goh Chok Tong, during the CII [Confederation of Indian Industry] conference held in Calcutta a few months back. The most significant fact is that while, in the new India of Manmohan Singh, American investments have been made in other parts of the country, not even a fraction of these investments has come to West Bengal. Despite several requests by S.S. Ray — the Indian ambassador in Washington — the U.S. commerce secretary, Ronald Brown, who led a 23-member delegation of leading businessmen to India recently, did

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not include Calcutta in his itinerary. Despite the evaluation made regarding West Bengal by (Arthur Delittol) and Price Waterhouse, the curiosity and eagerness of the Americans regarding West Bengal is much less compared with their interest in Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka. The recent controversy over the Enron power project in Maharashtra is a great setback. There is no doubt, that U.S. industrialists will seek the opinion of the chief minister of West Bengal on this controversy. This will be embarrassing for the chief minister. Up to now, a total of 75 foreign firms have shown interest in investing in power projects in India. Out of these, 20 are U.S. firms. The future of U.S. investment in India, particularly in the power sector, will largely depend on the outcome of the Enron controversy. Judged from this angle, it can be said that Jyoti Basu is visiting the United States at a time when favorable winds are not blowing over the Atlantic. At least the winds are not favorable for India.

Thus, Jyoti Basu will have to face a tough challenge. Not only will he have to attract the Americans to West Bengal, he will also have to prove through logic and statistics that West Bengal has the same potential for investment as Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka. The chief minister can be successful in this task only if his statements are consistent and not self-contradictory. It is not possible to achieve the objective without expressing unconditional allegiance toward a free economy; this is the least that must be done to gain anything from the United States. It is to be seen whether Jyoti Basu will manage to accomplish this task or not.

Arjun Singh Interviewed on Congress' Division

95AS0397B Varanasi AJ in Hindi 12 May 95 p 14

[Report on interview with Arjun Singh by Amitabh Agnihotri; place and date not given: "The Door of Unity is Closed"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The ex-Human Resources Minister Arjun Singh, who wants to give Congress its 'real' form during the conference organized in Delhi's Talkatora Stadium on the 19th of this month, believes that all doors for 'unity' have been closed after the Working Committee meeting of May 6. He believes that there was no sincerity in these attempts for unity from the very beginning.

AJ talked with Mr. Singh at length on various burning issues. During this conversation, which was completed in two segments during his Kota journey, Mr. Singh presented his clear opinion on many important issues. Here are some highlights of this conversation:

[Agnihotri] You had proposed Narasimha Rao's name for the post of Prime Minister in 1991. Do you feel in today's changed circumstances that your decision at that time was wrong?

[Singh, pausing] Loqk, under the circumstances at that time what happened was appropriate. There was no other choice then. So there are no regrets. But later experiences proved that decision to be wrong. He broke many promises.

[Agnihotri] When did you first feel that Mr. Rao started steering the government on a path different from the party's proclaimed policies?

[Singh] Why do you wish to rehash history? We will talk when the time comes.

[Agnihotri] Still there must have been some issue or incident which gave rise to this belief of yours?

[Singh] It began in 1992. It seemed that way for the first time with his relationship with the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]. His talks with the BJP and Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] on the question of Babri Masjid strengthened their notions. I wrote him letters. By 1994 it became quite clear that he was taking the government and the party in a direction contrary to the hallowed traditions of Congress. I have made all my letters public. Now you can weigh these and gage why, when and how all this happened.

[Agnihotri] Recently Karunakaran, Sharad Pawar and others have begun new attempts towards unity. What do you see as the future of these efforts?

[Singh] Look, there has been a lack of honesty in these attempts at unity from the very beginning. After the Working Committee meeting of May 6, all doors for unity have been closed. Actually, Mr. Rao is viewing these attempts at unity a danger to himself.

[Agnihotri] But these leaders have said even after the Working Committee meeting that they will continue attempts towards unity?

[Singh] Mr. Karunakaran's statement to this effect appears to be a reaction to our statement of May 7. Sharad Pawar is trying to clarify his own role. Therefore he says many things in the context of attempts towards unity. He talks to Mr. Tiwari on the phone.

[Agnihotri] Karunakaran has also said that he will maintain contact with Mr. Tiwari on this issue?

[Singh] Let him say this. Mr. Tiwari also understands everything.

[Agnihotri] Do you feel that through direct talks regarding unity with Mr. Tiwari, the strategy may be to isolate you?

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[Singh, laughing] No I don't feel this way. And if he has any such wishes, he has not succeeded in this at all.

[Agnihotri] Do you feel that Sharad Pawar could join you sooner or later at some juncture?

[Singh] Look, there was never any certainty regarding Mr. Pawar. Other associates also do not have any definite opinion about him.

[Agnihotri] How much support are you getting from Pawar's Maharashtra?

[Singh] Workers there are with us. I have recently gone to Kolhapur. This area is considered his stronghold. The workers support there was more than expected. Workers are angry with Mr. Pawar. There people kept telling me till the very end that I should not say anything in his support. [passage omitted]

[Agnihotri] Have you met with BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] chief Kanshi Ram?

[Singh] No. I have not talked to him. I have not met him for a year. I am not opposed to talking to him though.

[Agnihotri] Has there been any talk with a certain group in the Samata party about a coalition or collaboration?

[Singh] No my friend, I have not talked to anyone. I have also only seen news of these insinuations in the newspapers.

[Agnihotri] Is it not true that the decision is made at the top and the worker follows it?

[Singh] No, this time I am seeing an important difference on this point. There have been two splits in Congress. In 1969 and in 1978 the Indira went separate. At that time the decision was made at the top. Indira decided and later the workers ratified it. That was Indira - therefore time proved both her decisions to be right. But this time I am seeing a difference in the situation. This time the pressure for a decision is from the bottom. The workers want to make a decision, while we are alert on this point. If thousands of workers feel that the form and shape of the party must change, then there must be some concrete reasons behind this feeling.

[Agnihotri] It was reported in the newspapers that you wish Sonia Gandhi to intercede in the interest of unity?

[Singh] No. I did not say this. I have always said that the decision regarding what she wants to do should be left up to her own wisdom.

[Agnihotri] What will the 11th Lok Sabha election look like?

[Singh] To say anything about this at this time would be speculation. It is not possible for me to comment on this right now. I understand that the situation will become clear by August and only then it will be possible to say anything.

[Agnihotri] You have been saying much about the Babri Masjid. In your view what steps should the Central government have taken at that time to save that structure?

[Singh] Look the Prime Minister said in 1992 and from the ramparts of the Red Fort that the Babri Masjid would be protected. He had given this assurance to the nation from the Red Fort on his own. Nobody had asked him for it then. I believe that if the Central government had threatened to dismiss the [BJP-Led] Kalyan Singh government, this would have had an effect. But nothing of the sort happened. [passage omitted]

[Agnihotri] In your view who can be a unanimous leader of Congress?

[Singh] The last unanimous leader was Rajiv. Now we are talking about group leadership, whether someone accepts this or not. The present leadership cannot be compared to Nehru, Indira and Rajiv. Even these leaders of high stature never said what Mr. Rao said in the recent Working Committee meeting, that he would make whatever decision is made. That is why I have used the words hollow ego for Mr. Rao in this context.

Opposition Leaders said Anxious for Economic Reform

95AS0397A Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 6 May 95 p 4

[Article by Tavlin Singh: "Opposition Leaders Also Regard the Economic Reforms as Appropriate but..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] All of us know that politicians say one thing and do another. But as far as political showmanship, hypocrisy and plain lies are concerned, it is difficult to beat the show put up by our three newly appointed chief ministers during last week's annual meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industries [Bharatiya Udyog Sangh], which has become the primary voice of Indian industry, is leading the process of economic reforms in India, along with the Prime Minister and Dr. Manmohan Singh. Therefore they were naturally concerned when during the last two rounds of legislative assembly elections non-Congressmen were elected as chief ministers, both of whom won elections by attacking economic reforms. They decided to deal with this problem and invited the new chief ministers for talks. The three that agreed to come were N. T. Rama Rao, Manohar Joshi and Lalu Prasad Yadav [re-elected to chief minister post], who are the new leaders of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Bihar respectively.

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Industrialists had prepared tough questions for these new leaders because they expected to meet leaders who would speak the language of the so-called socialism of the past. They expected slogans such as "Garibi Hatao" (remove poverty) and also believed that they would have to defend the process of economic reform before these people, whose philosophical underpinnings automatically make them opposed to ideas such as free economy. But here they met with surprise.

The first chief minister to address the industrialists, who represent India's 3000 large corporations, was N. T. Rama Rao. It should be noted that his grand victory in Andhra, according to most people, was due to his promise of making rice available for two rupees a kg. This is the kind of economic populism which is considered contrary to reform.

N. T. R., during his election campaign, had attacked the economic policies of Congress on the basis that they favor the rich, while he favored the poor. With this he satisfied the poor, who gave N. T. R. a grand victory; but what did he tell the industrialists last week? He said that he wants privatization. He said, "I believe in encouraging private investment, and redefining the role of the State. My interest in giving prominence to free enterprise and market is not simply due to sudden enthusiasm created by the new changes." When asked if he would permit foreign investment in the non-core sector, he assured everyone that Andhra welcomes both "potato chips and micro-chips." This can only mean that N. T. R. is far more liberal than Mr. Narasimha Rao, who believes that India desires foreign investment only in the building of power plants, roads and other infrastructural elements.

These representatives of industry were still reeling with shock from N. T. R.'s new economic incarnation, when Maharashtra's Manohar Joshi came to address them. His government came to power by viciously attacking the economic policies of Congress, while he used his own wealth to silence critics and ordered a review of Maharashtra's controversial Enron Power Project. During the election campaign, Shiv Sena and the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], in order to influence voters, claimed that Enron was an example of selling the nation to foreigners. But what did Mr. Joshi have to say; "I assure industrialists that improvements have occurred in the state after policies were liberalized." Further, perhaps unwittingly, he praised the policies of the past Congress government which had caused an investment in the state valued at over a trillion rupees, which had given [Maharashtra] a competitive advantage over others.

He further said that his government will continue the process by making available a five star infrastructure and by encouraging investment. Even though he prefers domestic investment over foreign investment, this should not be construed to mean that foreigners would not be admitted. If the work is done by Indian industrialists, they would be given preference over foreigners. For Enron, they should remember that his government had only ordered a project review, not an investigation. Again we see a chief minister who is for economic liberalization.

In the end, Lalu Prasad, who won elections by pitting the poor against the rich and lower castes against upper castes, spoke. He was so much against liberalization that Bihar became India's most neglected State in terms of investment.

Lalu Prasad's message was not different from the two chief ministers who had spoken before him. He said that Bihar needs investment and that he personally guarantees that there would be no delays in payment. "I have retained [authority over] all departments, and the question of running here and there does not arise." He said that Bihar needs roads, bridges, power plants, telecommunication and industries, and he would welcome investment from both foreigners and Indians.

Thus you have a ratification of Mr. Narasimha Rao's economic reforms. This fact makes it quite clear that our politicians say one thing when they need votes but another when they are elected. Due to this shameful two-facedness the opinion of most of the Indian population has not changed with respect to economic reform.

This has not changed because ordinary Indians are not told the truth. They are not told, for example, that after almost 50 years of "socialism" and Central planning India's contribution to world trade is less than one percent. They are also not told this, because the government, on account of being a large industrialist, is very busy, and is therefore not able to spend a little time doing the things for which it has been elected: making available health care, schools, drinking water and other necessities of modern life.

They are not told that unless the Indian economy grows at the rate of seven percent for the next 10-15 years (the rate is currently a little over five percent), we will not be able to overcome poverty.

They are not told that China, a communist country, is receiving ten times as much foreign investment as India, because our politicians lie to the people. Public opinion does not change and politicians continue to lie. This cycle will only end when our political leaders start telling the truth.

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Iran

Velayati Blames U.S. for Problems Facing Muslims

LD2106201695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati says any problem which is now being faced by Muslims, be it in Bosnia, Palestine, Lebanon, or Iran, has been caused by the United States.

In an interview with IRIB's external service's television, Mr. Velayati said that the possession of nuclear facilities and weapons by the Zionist regime, which are considered the dangerous threat to the security of the Middle East region, is supported by the U.S. Administration. However, in contrast, Iran's peaceful use of nuclear power is condemned through adverse American propaganda and irrational alarm.

The Iranian foreign minister said that over recent years America has attempted to pressure any country opposing its policies through political influence and dominance, and it has imposed a unilateral embargo on Iran within the same peremptory framework.

Mr. Velayati added that as an important country, the political, economic, and international role of the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be ignored. European countries and Japan, due to their historical relationship with the Islamic world and their understanding of Iran's important position, disregarded and dismissed U.S. policy at the Halifax summit.

Mr. Velayati said: Iran's ties with European countries and Japan are based on common interests and mutual respect and there is no reason for those countries to follow America's illogical policy.

Iran's foreign minister pointed out that the current international and political conditions drive countries towards bilateral and multilateral cooperation at international and regional levels and anyone who thinks that if a country opposes U.S. policy it will automatically face a wave of global protest by other independent states is grossly mistaken.

Majles Studies Legal Proceedings Against U.S.

LD2106135995 Tehran IRNA in English 1341 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA — Majles Foreign Policy Commission here on Tuesday [20 June] studied the legal proceedings against the U.S. underway at the International Court of Justice in The Hague to raise the blockade on 12 billion dollars Iranian assets deposited with U.S. banks.

Qashqavi, a member of the the Majles commission told IRNA parliamentary correspondent that the commission also reviewed another claim against the U.S. of 2.7 billion dollars already referred to the arbitration.

He said that a report on the latest status of Iranian assets which the U.S. owed to Iran was given to the commission.

He said the commission also studied the Zionist regime's debts to Iran, the Zionist regime of Israel owed over eight billion dollars to Iran for the investments made by the former regime of Iran in Aqabeh port, he said.

The issue of other debtors including Syria, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Sudan was also raised in the commission and it is expected to suggest a mechanism to the debtors to fulfil their obligations, he said.

The ministers of foreign affairs, finance and economic affairs and head of the office for the international law, Eftekhar Jahromi and other experts were present in the commission.

Daily Criticizes U.S. Moves To Expand NATO

LD2106125195 Tehran IRNA in English 1129 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA — "Although still a world power, the United States can gain respect by observing the rights, independence, and sovereignty of other nations," wrote the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial on Wednesday [21 June].

Commenting on U.S. intention to expand NATO to include Eastern Europe in the aftermath of the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the the paper added that one should not take advantage of the present weakness of Russia, once a superpower.

"No matter what NATO and the U.S. say, the appearance would be that they are uniting against Russia" a move which may provoke Russia and provide it with a pretext to become militaristic again.

"The United States believes it is now the only superpower. On the one hand, it is the only superpower left from the Cold War era, which carries with it the responsibility not to provoke Russia, not to tell Iran how to conduct its affairs, and not to tell Europe what is good for the United States is good for Europe.

"On the other hand, the U.S. is not the great superpower that it beleived since it has not been able to unite its European allies against Iran," wrote the paper.

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Azeri Envoy Admits U.S. Pressure on Oil Accord

LD2206084695 Tehran IRNA in English 0749 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA — Azeri Ambassador to Tehran Elyar Seferli in an interview with the daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, printed Thursday [22 June], expressed views on ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, annulment of Iran-Azeri oil deal and the conflict in Karabakh.

On the oil deal, Seferli said the Azeri Government was very serious on the issue, adding that his country had allocated a 5 percent share of the consortium to Iran but other members disagreed with the allocation.

"We had promised Iran that if other members of the consortium come to terms with us on this issue, we too would agree. But that did not happen," said the Azeri diplomat.

He said Azeri President Geydar Aliyev is one who keeps his word, adding that if he has promised something, he will honor it because he has special respect for Iran and has sincere relations with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

However, the Azeri envoy said, "the consortium is for all those who have a role in it. Azerbaijan is not its only member. European, British, U.S. and other oil companies who had a share in the consortium, didn't agree with it. The U.S. voiced its dismay. we are a small republic, just a drop in the ocean. Hence we cannot do much. The U.S. flexes its muscles to show its might and we have to submit. I hope you do understand our position."

He further added, "we try to cultivate our ties with Iran. We have tried our best, and it is reciprocal. All Azeris are fond of Iranians and consider Iran their homeland."

Seferli said, "we are your neighbors sharing common historical and religious background. We have a common religion and history. Iran has a strategic role in the region."

Asked if Azerbaijan was backed down under the consortium pressure, the ambassador said he is fully aware that the oil issue holds no significance for Iran. "It was significant from the intellectual and political point of view. And for this reason, we agreed to have Iran in the consortium."

On Azeri-Armenian conflict over Karabakh Seferli said, "at present there is no peace in Azerbaijan. It is a no-peace, no-war situation... of course you must be aware that Armenian forces have attacked Azerbaijan on two other occasions and we have retaliated."

He added that the Organization on Security Cooperation in Europe did intervene and they made some decisions but all that was only on paper.

About the U.N. resolution, he said, "other similar ogranizations act in the same way... we do not expect much from these organizations and the Azeris themselves should defend their nation."

However, he stressed, the Azeri officials support peace and seek to solve the conflict in a peaceful manner.

On Azerbaijan relations with Turkey, Seferli said Azerbaijan is an independent state having policies of its own. But, "I would like to elaborate that we have friendly ties with Turkey and Iran."

He concluded by saying, "we look for friends in our neighborhood that is, our first friends come from the neighboring countries - Iran, Turkey, Russia, Georgia and other states are our friends and there is no doubt about it."

Opposition Leader Expects 'Widespread Protests'

BR2106130395 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 21 Jun 95 p 10

[Interview with People's Party Secretary Daryush Faruhar by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Beware: The Country Could Explode" — first two paragraphs are CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iranian Government is trying to break out of its international isolation by playing the Rushdie card, but its moves are still governed by the difficult domestic situation.

Daryush Faruhar, secretary of the Iranian People's Party — a political force tolerated by the regime — is pessimistic and worried. Just a fortnight ago he almost died in a "strange" traffic accident. His car was wrecked and, miraculously, Faruhar suffered only a few injuries.

[CORRIERE DELLA SERA] How do you judge the situation in Iran?

[Faruhar] It is distressing. Since taking power the government has brought the people to ruin. We are plunging into deadly moral, political, and economic decline. And the situation is exacerbated by the fact that, in the international field, Iran has entered a blind alley.

[CORRIERE DELLA SERA] What are the most serious difficulties that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is encountering?

[Faruhar] In order to extricate the country from its troubles the president should be able to depend on the

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people's support and on well-calculated plans. But at present he does not enjoy people's confidence and does not have any precise plans.

[CORRIERE DELLA SERA] Disorders have occurred in several cities in recent months, as a result of the crisis assailing the country. Could there be more protests?

[Faruhar] The economic problems have exasperated the Iranian people. Under present conditions it is difficult even to organize your own life: Food, work, medicines, and education are becoming luxuries. Therefore widespread protests are to be expected. And if the regime continues to maintain absolute power, I do not rule out the possibility that ordinary demonstrations could turn into a sharper and tougher form of struggle.

[CORRIERE DELLA SERA] A new class of technocrat mullahs seems to be emerging in the country. Do you think that they will be able to prevail?

[Faruhar] In Iran the majority of the Shiite clergy are dissatisfied with what is happening and do not want to become involved in political matters. But I think that it will be difficult for them to dominate the scene.

[CORRIERE DELLA SERA] Do you consider the U.S. Government's charges against Iran well founded?

[Faruhar] I am a nationalist and, although I criticize the Islamic Republic, I will never side with foreign powers. Not in any field.

[CORRIERE DELLA SERA] Do the authorities create obstacles to your activity?

[Faruhar] I have the same troubles as those suffered by my fellow countrymen. I lack any judicial protection and I see human rights such as social freedoms being violated.

[CORRIERE DELLA SERA] What is your political message?

[Faruhar] I urge the Iranian people to serry their ranks in order to replace the present government with a democratic and pluralistic system.

Radio Charges UK With 'Propaganda Offensive'

LD2106132495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 21 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The rumor on arms sales to Iran has led to a tension in London's political situation. Opponents to the Major government in the British Parliament have accused the government of nonobservance of the law on arms embargo against Iran from 1980 onwards.

The government's opponents in the British House of Commons refer to the role played by a company in the episode on the illicit sale of arms to Iran. Jonathan Aitken, an influential member of the Parliament who is currently in the cabinet of John Major, has been an official of that company.

The British Government, in rebutting the charges levelled by the opponents on the non-specification of the final destination of weapons in the relevant documents, has pointed to the ease in the export of weapons and the nonexistence of any regulations in this regard at any time.

It must be noted that Jonathan Aitken has repeatedly denied his role in the issue of arms sales to Iran, but the verbal replies of Michael Heseltine, the then British trade secretary, to the questions of Major's opponents in the parliament, concerning the operations of BMARC company, of which Aitken was an official, have worsened the situation. Political observers believe that Michael Heseltine is one of the main political rivals of John Major and is seeking to become Britain's prime minister. These observers construe controversial and (?instigating) responses of Heseltine as an effort to defame John Major.

The assertion of old subjects such as the rumor on the sale of weapons to Iran and also unauthorized sales of arms to Iraq, and their being put on the agenda of the British House of Commons by the opponents of the government, do not constitute anything new. The setting forth of such matters by opponents, (?that) should be considered as a sort of unofficial and honorable interpellation, is rooted in Britain's political and party culture as a political tradition and tactic.

The choice of the subject on the alleged arms sales to Iran contended by the parliamentary opponents of John Major — besides the main goal for asserting it, namely putting the Major cabinet under pressure in an effort to undermine his personality — can also have other objectives. Pursuit of a propaganda offensive against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the British House of Commons can be another objective behind the adoption of this decision.

Company To Produce Water Turbines for China

LD2106140995 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA — Some 34 combined cycle boilers each weighing 200 tons will be manufactured in Iran during the 2nd five-year economic, social, and cultural development plan, said Mustafa Karbalai, the managing director of the Azarab Industries Company.

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Speaking at the 2nd Iranian electrical industry exhibition here, he added that, the 50 percent of the projects will be implemented by his company.

According to him, the company has received an order from Chinese companies for manufacture of two 250 megawatt water turbines.

During the 2nd five-year plan, 12 to 20 water turbine are to be manufactured in the country, out of which 10 turbines would be produced by the azarab industries company, Karbalai said.

Majles Deputies Renew Allegiance to Khamene'i

LD2106165195 Tehran IRNA in English 1218 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA — In a letter to the leader of Islamic revolution and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, Majles deputies renewed their allegiance to the supreme leader and expressed their readiness to safeguard Islam.

The letter read that the Grand Ashura military exercise which was recently conducted by 100,000 of Basiji forces grouped in 31 divisions of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), demonstrated the military power and readiness of brave Iranian combatants.

In their letter, the Majles deputies said the statements made by the leader during his speech to forces participating in the Ashura war games clearly indicated the Islamic Republic's policies.

The letter was read at the end of the open session of Majles on Tuesday [20 June].

Filmmakers View Government Stand on Film Industry

NC2006082495 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] In a letter to the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, 214 of the country's filmmakers have asked the ministry to revise its views and lift crippling regulations and ease the complicated controls over filmmaking.

The letter refers to remarks by the esteemed leader of the revolution to members of the cultural society and filmmakers on the values, shortcomings, and problems faced by Iran's cinema industry and states: It was to safeguard its cultural values that our Islamic Revolution founded a new cinema... [ellipsis as published]

Yes, we admit that all these gains have been created by the Islamic Revolution. But without wanting to assess this period, we wish all the successes and hard work had been used correctly and toward achieving a consistent domestic and popular movie industry. Proforeign and antipopular cinema and commercial movies have been among the redundancies of the era.

Going on to refer to the two plagues of all-aspected state assistance and support for cinema and the copying and Western products that will push Iranian cinema to an impasse, the letter points to the special characteristics of a national cinema and adds:

Films should convey a message, with the scenario reflecting our life; the actors should portray the genuine nature of our people's lives at this sensitive time in which relations are inspired by the realities of society; and the whole should reflect the true fears and hopes of the people. Production, filming, and techniques should reach new horizons free of foreign prescriptions but referring to the special characteristics of our native, national, and religious culture and paving the way for an ideal cinema.

The signatories of the letter express support and allegiance to the state offices dealing with filmmaking and also their wish that the country's filmmaking industry will be a "domestic" one.

Soon there will be interviews and discussions with all those involved in the Iranian film industry to assess and comment on recent discussions concerning the industry.

Traffic Permits Issued for Foreign Vehicles

LD2206092995 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA — Traffic permits have been issued for foreign vehicles passing through the Iranian territory by Iran Traffic and Terminals Organization, it was announced today.

The new permits will allow foreign drivers to carry goods through Iran's transit routes as of Thursday, June 22, the announcement said.

The Public Relations Office of the organization further noted that the permits will contain characteristics of the driver, the vehicle, the cargo, period and extent of the journey, and the amount of fuel the vehicle needs.

Among other important specifications of the permits which will be issued and offered to the drivers upon their arrival at border points, is to register the amount of foreign currency they carry with them at the time of arrival and checking it when they leave the country.

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Daily Views Exports of Non-Oil Products

95LA0241F Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—Currently the share of industrial products in the nation's total non-oil exports is 35 percent. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan this must increase to 60 percent.

Asadollah Asgarowladi, deputy chief of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Mines, announced this in an interview with RESALAT's economic affairs correspondent. He said: It is expected that in the final year of the Second Five-Year Plan, the country will earn $8 billion from non-oil exports, at least half of which will be industrial exports.

He emphasized the need to develop industrial exports. He said: In the future, exports of traditional and agricultural goods will reach a point where any further exports will cause problems domestically. Therefore various means and incentives must be created for increasing the share of industrial goods in the nation's total non-oil exports.

Asgarowladi said in this regard: To reach this goal, first the needs of neighbor countries must be identified and contracts must be signed with industrial nations in such a way that the raw materials and parts may be securely obtained from them and we can export them with added value.

Continuing, he added: Domestic industrial agents must also be required to allocate a percentage of their production (even those that are consumed domestically) to exports. In this way the foreign exchange needed by these units will be obtained, and if there is a price increase caused by exports or foreign exchange procurement, there will be no need to go to the free market to obtain foreign exchange, and price increases will thereby be prevented.

The deputy chief of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Mines emphasized that in the long run industrial production units must become self-sufficient in terms of foreign exchange. He noted: Managers must have the peace of mind of knowing that they will obtain the foreign exchange they need so they will think about getting involved in international markets with better planning.

He discussed the country's creation of industrial goods that can be exported. He said: Currently three types of industrial exports are being created in the country. One group is food industry exports such as various types of canned goods and packaged food. Exports of these kinds of items come to $100 million per year.

The second group includes exports of cloth, clothing, and carpets. Their export value last year was $150 million, and it is expected that this year the figure will exceed $250 million.

The third group is exports of metals. We have gotten into this sector in the last year or two, and it includes steel. Last year the value of the foreign exchange obtained through steel exports was about $200 million, and this year this figure will reach $300 million or even more.

He said: Other industrial goods we should get into exporting include industrial machinery such as machines for grinding, casting, and molding, water, electricity and gas meters, bodies for buses and trucks, and other things which have high consumption in our region and for which Iran is capable of meeting the region's needs.

Likewise, exports must be developed for leather, shoes, and various types of leather products.

He emphasized: To achieve our goals in this area we must provide incentives for these types of industries. For example Iranian shoes, which are internationally famous, do not have the necessary incentives, and these problems must be solved.

Asgarowladi emphasized the need to resume the Supreme Export Council's practice of holding regular meetings and added: If export problems and difficulties are studied at a meeting attended by the president of the republic and the chief of the Central Bank, we will be better able to reach conclusions and practical solutions.

The deputy chief of the Chamber of Commerce also said: A research and investigation group must be formed at the Export Development Center or the Ministry of Industries to study the nation's export problems so that it can guide domestic industries in the direction of exports by providing statistics on the needs of neighbor countries and countries with whom we have treaties.

He added: Iran now has a joint commission with 50 foreign countries which meets every year. Along with this commission a research and investigation unit should also be active to study export issues.

Asgarowladi emphasized the need to attend international industrial expositions, especially those in countries that have treaties with ours. He said: Means must be provided to permit exporters to attend these expositions and do marketing because the banks now only allocate each traveler $1,000 in foreign exchange per year, yet a traveler needs to go abroad several times a year.

At the end of the interview he emphasized the role of the Export Guarantee Fund and the Export Development

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Bank in supporting exporters. He said: Reducing the rate on preferred loans for industrial exports will be effective in developing exports of these goods.

Article Views Need To Fight U.S. Sanctions

95LA0258B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 10 May 95 p 2

[Article by political service editor Mas'ud Reza'i]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent U.S. efforts to impose widespread economic sanctions against Iran, even though they will not in practice achieve the goals and expectations of the White House, still clarify the depth of the hostility of the United States against the Islamic revolution. These incidents will certainly be a lesson to those who, forgetting the diabolic nature of the U.S. political system, have addressed here and there in musings and evaluations the possibility of compromise between the Islamic revolution and Washington. The struggle between the revolution and the oppressors will continue until the natures of these two have changed, and this is a fact that we must not forget for one moment.

In confronting this fact and in order not to be overcome by it, one obvious, important point must not be overlooked: the need to continue the struggle. Concerning this issue many points can be made, such as the necessity for careful planning, the rejection of elements alien to the revolutionary culture, conservation in expenditures, valuing knowledge and research, etc., but above all these, another issue must be pointed out which prepares the grounds for all these points. We need "an alert political society."

The revolution, in its essence and nature, has no other meaning but for the society to be political and alert. Societies that lack these two characteristics will certainly move toward decadence and decline and will not only be unable to stand up against the system that dominates the world but will be consumed by it. What makes an alert political society is the constant correction of policies and the protection of the authenticity and freshness of the revolution through the continuous participation of every member and institution of society in the current affairs and the small and large plans of the country. Fortunately, the presence of an alert and brave leadership at the head of the regime of the Islamic Republic is considered a strong guarantee of the preservation of the health of the revolution, but the "imam" and the "nation" are considered two inseparable points in the political system of Iran, which by interacting with each other materialize the sacred divine goals. The society of the dawn of Islam being distanced from political issues and the turning off of the lights of awareness among the Muslims created the most difficult and painful conditions for the imams of the time, who were the most alert and bravest of human beings.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic has anticipated and explained the methods of political participation of the people in the affairs of the country in its best and most eloquent form, and postponing the implementation of the related principles is not in the interest of the nation and the revolution under the existing conditions and the present destiny making period. While the United States, as the great enemy of the Islamic revolution, every day increases its pressures and tries to create disappointment and despair in the people by making the domestic economic and social conditions difficult, we must engage in the most calculated decisions by gathering all intellectual resources existing in the country to administer the affairs.

Problems like the entry of luxury consumer goods that ultimately result in the waste of national capital, the growth of consumer industries in excess of the determined amount, the signing of assembly industry agreements, the establishment of economic relations with the United States, the growth of consumer commercials throughout the cities, and deviation from the policies ratified in the plan in order to obtain loans, etc., may not be contrary to the conditions of the period of struggle and the great holy war of the revolution from the perspective of some people, but the possibility for general criticism of these policies and actions must be provided by establishing the foundations of the institutions of collective participation. The officials must also feel obliged to respond to the people in the course of the confrontation of certain political organizations with each other.

What will result in the mean time is the alertness of the people and their self-motivation in terms of political activities on the one hand, and the farsightedness of the officials of the time on the other. As a matter of course, these two should result in the devising of more precise plans under the present sensitive conditions. The emphasis of the grand leader on the existence of two "possibilities" for the revolutionary society of Iran is precisely an interpretation of divine promises. This all depends on the existence of particular qualifications among the faithful Islamic nation. The experience of recent years has shown that minor, passing criticism by the media and individuals is ineffective in the great operation of the affairs and problems of the country. For this reason, to strengthen the system of supervision and reform the affairs in order to achieve a society worthy of receiving divine victory and blessing, it is necessary to strive seriously to create institutions for collective participation. Given the situation in which the United States certainly will increase its pressures on the Islamic

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revolution every day, the creation of a politically alert society is one of the absolute necessities of the period of struggle and the attainment of victory.

Reportage on Rafsanjani Visit to Azerbaijan

WA2206144695

For reportage on the visit by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Azerbaijan, please see the Azerbaijan section of the 22 June Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Pakistan

Editorial Views U.S. 'Warning,' Offers Advice

BK2006151495 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 17 Jun 95 p 10

[Editorial: "U.S. Warning — A Moment of Contemplation for Benazir Bhutto"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Expressing serious concern about the ongoing confrontation between the government and the opposition in Pakistan, particularly on the initiation of a case of treason against Mian Nawaz Sharif, the leader of the opposition, a spokesman of the U.S. Department of State has said that it is not a good sign for the judiciary and democracy in Pakistan. Polarization is causing anxiety. The U.S. will encourage political negotiations between the two groups. It is not appropriate for the U.S. Government to comment on the case; however, it will closely observe its proceedings. The United States was astonished by the Benazir government's move. It is concerned about the severe tension between the government and the opposition and about the increasing incidents of terrorism in Karachi. The United States is committed to taking every measure to provide protection to its citizens in Karachi. We are providing advice and assistance to the Government of Pakistan but in fact, it is the government and the people of Pakistan who can resolve this problem.

The Pakistan People's Party [PPP] coalition government must be very upset about this unexpected warning from the U.S. Department of State because even before coming into power the PPP had begun giving the impression that they enjoyed the unconditional support of the United States and the Pakistan Army. This impression did not last very long. A few weeks ago the Army chief flabbergasted the government by his detailed meeting with the leader of the opposition, which was neither prearranged nor was there agenda, and now the U.S. Administration has also made it clear that it is not happy with most of the steps taken by the PPP government.

The PPP government should realize that supporting a country, where established democratic norms are being violated, is very difficult these days for any country including the United States and Western countries. How can a democratic government practically support a government which is taking revengeful action against the members of assembly and the opposition leaders, or a country where restrictions are being imposed on media, where newspaper workers and owners are being victimized, and where the judiciary is not believed to be free? The public as well as concerned people are protesting against appointments in the higher courts by the present government saying that these appointees lack the qualifications, capability, and experience. Benazir Bhutto has been advised by the Department of State that she should correct her dealings not only with Nawaz Sharif, the opposition leader, but also with the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM]. Suppression of politicians, parties, and newspapers who play the role of opposition or discrimination against them is not favored anywhere in the world.

Creating hurdles for an independent judiciary or press is an undemocratic act. After coming into power, the present government has made the opposition papers, particularly the daily "KHABRAIN" from Lahore and Islamabad, a target of its politics of vengeance. All advertisements for this paper have been stopped. During a session of the National Assembly, it was admitted in front of the honorable members that the pro-government newspapers were given advertisements worth millions of rupees while "KHABRAIN" was totally deprived of all advertisements. Moreover, none of its staff has ever been included in official delegations for any incountry or foreign tours. The protest against the appointments in higher courts is also continuing.

The people of Karachi City are facing continuous unrest, all efforts to control the lawlessness have failed because the majority here supports the MQM. Most of the representatives, who were elected by majority vote, are now in jails while those who lost the elections have been given power. It is amazing what kind of advisers are advising Benazir Bhutto to take such steps, which will result in increasing the unrest.

The United States and the European countries, due to the pressure of public opinion and their elected representatives, cannot keep on supporting governments who create hurdles for the freedom of politics, freedom of press, freedom of judiciary, and freedom of legislature. While the United States and other countries are creating problems for us on charges of child labor and terrorism, it is also difficult for them to support a government which levies cases of treason against the opposition leader. Benazir Bhutto, the leader of PPP, has been blinded by power. We would like to appeal to her to take a breath and see that the decisions of the heads of the Senate and

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the National Assembly — the highest legislative bodies of the country — are not being honored. Though both of them were elected during the PPP rule, now they have been made totally ineffective by their own government. Similarly, the manner in which the majority government was toppled and a PPP government was installed in the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] has already been exposed by the opposition. The cases have been filed in superior courts and the election commission and unless these cases are decided no democratic person will accept the NWFP government. Apparently, Punjab is also being ruled by a PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] coalition but the people are well aware of the disharmony within this coalition. The ill-treatment of PPP ministers and members of the provincial assembly towards their coalition party and the scorn and taunt of which Punjab government is being made a target is no secret.

The real strength of the PPP government, as they claimed, lay in the unconditional support from the United States and Pakistani military, but the U.S. statement in the wake of Nawaz Shrif's unexpected meeting with the Army chief also has demolished that remaining pillar. Now, neither the military stands with them nor do they have U.S. support. Thus all those "assurances" do not carry any weight. Now is a tough moment for the PPP government and it should make a decision to change its theory of power and methods of governance. When Benazir herself was the leader of the opposition she used to say that a council consisting of the president, the prime minister, chief of Army staff, and the leader of the opposition along with two judges should be formed to make decisions on most of the important matters of the country. Now being the prime minister, she has an opportunity to act upon her own proposal. She was a strong advocate of revival of 1973 Constitution; why is she delaying its revival now?

It is our sincere advice to her that she pay attention to these issues, build a durable democratic system, and make decisions according to the principles of freedom of politics, judiciary, legislature, and press.

Daily Views U.S. Ties, Independent Foreign Policy

BK2206060995 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 22 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "An Independent Foreign Policy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In an interview carried by an English daily; Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has sought to convey the government's determination to continue pursuing an independent foreign policy. In particular, the foreign minister made some interesting points about the Pak-US relationship. The two countries, he maintains, could have a good relationship without necessarily being in agreement on every issue. On Iran, for instance, the foreign minister made it clear that there was a significant difference between Pakistan's approach and that of the US. As for wrongs done to Pakistan, he emphasised the need for dealing through established diplomatic channels rather than indulging in the unhelpful exercise of 'cursing the Americans.' Not least, he stressed the point that the government had not made any concessions that compromised Pakistan's stand on the key issues of Kashmir and the nuclear policy.

The role of the US in influencing the country's policies has of course been a topic of intense discussion even after Pakistan dissociated from the pacts that bound it to the US in a formal multilateral security relationship. The perception remains that US disapproval can seriously undermine a government's ability to stay on in office. In this context the US expression of concern (subsequently clarified as not being the official position) regarding the treason charges against the leader of the opposition is being treated as significant in many quarters. Clearly, whatever reservations anyone may have as to the charges, it is for the courts to decide upon the merits of the case. There is no doubt that the Pak-US relationship is a complex one in which the operative factor, as the foreign minister indicated, is the pursuit of interests rather than that of justice. It can be argued, as he has done, that the government has had some success in negotiating with the US, given its limited resources. The US, for instance, now recognises that Pakistan had a just case on the Pressler Amendment and concessions by Pakistan such as its support for the indefinite extension of the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] were not of a nature that undermined its stand on the nuclear issue. Again, to the extent that Pakistan has been able to get the US to take an interest, albeit limited, in the Kashmir issue, the government has reason to feel satisfied with its performance in the realm of foreign affairs. But the fact remains that real leverage in dealing with other states accrues from internal strength. And, to quote the foreign minister, the internal situation hurts us greatly. It is for the government as well as the opposition and other political forces to keep that in perspective and to move in tandem to deal with issues relating to political polarisation, ethnic and sectarian conflicts as well as minority alienation that threaten to render Pakistan a house divided against itself. Such a state, obviously, would be poorly placed to pursue the kind of independent foreign policy that the foreign minister has so categorically affirmed.

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Official Comments on Economy, India Talks

BK1906095295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Assembly this morning resumed general discussion on the federal budget for the next financial year. Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] called upon the government to initiate consultations with the opposition to strengthen parliamentary democracy, institutions, and lift the country from present economic difficulties. Maulana Abdul Rahim Chitrali, JI [Jamaat-i-Islami], strongly criticized the economic policies being pursued by the government and said these have failed to arrest price hike, unemployment, and corruption. (Waja Karendad), PPP [Pakistan People's Party], praised the budget and said it was aimed at strengthening the economy which would lead to provision of facilities to the common man and raise their living standard. Rana Chander Singh, minorities, supported the budget and said it was a well-balanced document.

Earlier, the house was informed this morning that it is the sovereign decision by Pakistan not to undertake nuclear tests and the country believes in comprehensive banning of nuclear tests. Answering a number of question, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, said it is in the interest of Pakistan to have a seismic station in Chakwal which would be able to detect any low intensity nuclear test in the region. He said the equipment has already been ordered and was to be supplied by the United States and Norway, but due to some technical problems, the equipment for the station has not been received.

The foreign minister said Pakistan has expressed its willingness to hold serious and purpose-oriented discussions with India for amicable settlement of Kashmir and other outstanding problems as soon as propitious climate is created. Pakistan has already urged the Indian Government to withdraw its troops and stop its repression in occupied Kashmir. He said Pakistan has also proposed third-party mediation to break the deadlock, but India has opposed it.

'Deep Concern' Over India-Afghan Ties Viewed

BK2106111895 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 21 Jun 95 pp 8, 6

[Report by Asif Shabbir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad — It has been learned through informed sources that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Sardar Farooq Khan Leghari have expressed deep concern over the increasing influence of India and some other countries in Afghanistan and have directed Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali to visit Afghanistan and try to revive Pakistan's prior role there. On the instruction of the president and the prime minister, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif will visit Afghanistan from 24 June. He will go to Kabul, Herat, Qandahar and Jalalabad, where he will hold talks with Afghan leaders to remove the misunderstandings that have cropped up in Pakistan-Afghan relations. According to the sources, Pakistan no longer plays a noticeable role in Afghanistan due to the differences between the two countries on transit trade and some other issues. Taking advantage of this situation, India and some other countries increased their influence in Afghanistan. The Pakistani Foreign Ministry has failed to check this influence. It has also been learned that Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has held Interior Minister General, retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar responsible for damaging relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and has explained to the prime minister that the Foreign Ministry is constantly trying to remove bilateral misunderstandings.

'Sources' Report Bhutto Facing IMF Difficulty

BK2106040295 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, June 19 — The federal cabinet on Monday [19 June] discussed the internal and external reaction to the budget and decided "not to incorporate any change in it about which the IMF will be taken into confidence shortly".

Informed sources told DAWN that the cabinet meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was of the view that the government could not take the risk of introducing heavy taxes in case it accepted the IMF conditionalities, specially that of keeping the deficit figure at 4 percent of the GDP.

The prime minister, the sources said, told her cabinet colleagues that the IMF would be taken into confidence as to why the deficit figure was kept at 5 percent of the GDP instead of 4.

She said the 4 percent target would have meant the levy of additional taxes of Rs 22 billion and she could not go for such an "adventure". "I can not sacrifice my people for the sake of IMF conditionalities," she reportedly said.

The sources said she assured the cabinet that there was no threat to the Extended Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) programme of 1.5 billion dollars for Pakistan after the government made what she termed "minor adjustments" in the Fund's programme to avoid heavily taxing the common man.

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The prime minister said it was also difficult for her to lower the tariffs to 50 percent as was prescribed by the IMF. The sources said her government avoided a further about 12 billion taxes by keeping this tariff target at 65 percent. Overall, the government avoided the compulsory levy of Rs 50 billion taxes by making minor adjustments in the targets of fiscal deficit and tariffs.

The issue was earlier discussed in the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting — the highest body on economic decision-making — where a decision was taken to levy the record taxes of Rs 55 billion to bridge to budgetary gap and accepting the IMF conditionality of reducing tariffs to 65 percent.

However, the sources said after the NEC meeting the Prime Minister held a number of meetings with her close political and economic aides at which it was decided to slightly deviate from the IMF's structural reform programme.

Though the IMF expressed it concern over this deviation, it did not decide to unilaterally stop the ESAF programme as was speculated in the Press.

The issue of law and order with special reference to Karachi also came up for discussion in the cabinet, with the Prime Minister reiterating that she would not compromise with the terrorists of the Altaf group. She said she enjoyed the full support and confidence of all the relevant quarters to deal with the terrorists with an iron hand.

The sources said Ms Bhutto told her cabinet colleagues that she did not believe in making compromises on principles and that she would chase the terrorists till they were apprehended and in this process would not care even if she had to sacrifice her life.

The prime minister said her government was providing all necessary funds to bring about a socio-economic change in Sindh.

Minister Discusses Tank, Aircraft Development

BK1806103395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Assembly was informed during question hour today that the prototype of Al-Khalid tank will be ready and tested in August this year. Replying to a question by the deputy opposition leader, Mr Gauhar Ayub Khan, the defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, said there have been several trials since 1990 and the defects found during the trials have been rectified. The ultimate objective of the government is to have transfer of technology. The minister assured the house that Al- Khalid will be the tank for next century and this was the reason for delay as it is time consuming to make it perfect.

Replying to another question by Mian Abdul Waheed, the defense minister said the country will receive deliveries of several tanks during the current financial year. In order to meet its long-term requirements, several proposals are under consideration at present to procure tanks from different countries.

The defense minister further said in reply to a question by Chaudhary Zafar Iqbal that Pakistan is developing Super-7 aircraft in cooperation with India [name of country as heard], which will be equivalent to F-16, and its prototype will be ready by 1997-98.

Answering to a number of supplementaries, he said Pakistan is also looking for alternatives if F-16's are not delivered by the United States. In this regard, he referred to Su-27 Russian and advanced aircraft from France and Sweden.

Leghari Urges Press, Others To Assist in Karachi

BK2106142195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president has called upon the editors, intellectuals, and other opinion leaders of the country to play their crucial and positive role for an early solution of the serious and complex problem of Karachi. President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari was talking to the recently elected office bearers of the All Pakistan Newspaper Society, APNS, and Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors, CPNE, and members of their executive committees.

The president briefed the editors of newspapers and periodicals about the Karachi problem in depth, highlighting its economic, ethnic, social, and political dimensions. President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said that the government on the one hand should effectively combat terrorism to ensure full protection to the life, honor and property of the citizens of Karachi, and on the other hand, it should simultaneously have constant dialogue with all the political parties to find an early solution of the problem. He said that peace and normalcy must return to Karachi in order to attract Pakistani and foreign investment, revive normal business and economic activity, and to provide job opportunities and amenities of life to the people of the city. He once again appealed to all sections of society to work together for ending violence and restoring peace in Karachi.

Those who called on the president included Mr. Z.A. Suleri, president of CPNE; Mr. Mustafa Sadeq, president of APNS; Qazi Asad Abid, senior vice president

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of APNS; Mir Javed Rahman, honorary general secretary of APNS; Mr. Mumtaz A. Tahir, vice president of APNS; Mr. Jamil Athar, secretary general of CPNE; Mr. Sajjad Bukhari, joint secretary of APNS; and other office bearers and members of the executive committees of APNS and CPNE.

Government Spin on U.S. Ties Seen as Sham

95AS0393D Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 3 May 95 p 2

[Article by Mohammad Ashraf Qureshi: "What Will Pakistan's Prime Minister Gain From Compromising Pakistan's Dignity?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It has been over a month since Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto returned from her trip to the United States. However, it seems like Madam Bhutto returned only yesterday! Whether we turn on our radio, television or look at newspaper headlines, they are still talking about her visit to the United States. The administration, following Pakistani political tradition, is raising the banners of success and satisfaction about this trip. The opposition is calling it a failure and is condemning it. The wonderful thing about Pakistani politics is that not even one of its rulers has ever admitted to a failure on any front. Be it General Ayub Khan returning after signing the agreement in Tashkent or Yahaya Khan and Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto after dividing up our beloved nation or Madam Benazir Bhutto after withdrawing her resolutions from the UN Security Council. The question of the failure of her visit to the United States just does not arise.

The government interpretation of the U.S. trip is that Benazir Bhutto's visit was a total success because she managed to get a promise for billions of dollars investment, U.S. involvement in resolving the Kashmir issue, and creating flexibility in the Pressler amendment for delivery of spare parts for F-16s.

It is not necessary to point out how much truth and how much self-delusion is in the claims made by government spokesmen and their henchmen. [passage omitted]

Madam Bhutto's trip to the United States was the first trip made by any of our leaders for which special plans were made months ahead of the trip. The steps taken to soften the U.S. government's attitude were not effective in influencing the U.S. government, however, but may decide Madam Bhutto's future. Will she be able to get votes from the people and return to power after taking such steps as declaring our religious groups fundamentalist and asking the United States to help us against them, freeing [Christian] criminals who had insulted our religion, and sending drug mafia lynchpins to the United States instead of punishing them in our own courts? Is not the spending of billions of rupees on this trip a violation of the rights of the poor in our country? The special preparations made for this trip prove that she was afraid that this trip was going to be a failure. Why is the government creating more hostility against it by further deluding itself?

The United States has the ambition to control the whole world and is proactively involved in this effort. It knows about its goals and how to achieve them. Does not Madam Bhutto know that Pakistan still has as important a position for the United States as it had during the Soviet Union-Afghanistan war? Pakistan is situated in an area which is a confluence of South Asia, Central Asia and the Gulf countries. Does Madam Bhutto think that the United States is a country which does not know about its own interests? The United States is a nation which will make the advance if it sees Pakistan helping it protect its interests and all the amendments will be ignored. We wonder why the U.S. aid suspended after the 1965 India-Pakistan war was reinstated when the Soviet Union-Afghanistan war was started? Did the late Ziaul Haq follow the strategy she is using now?

Only one side of the U.S. trip that was shared with the nation looked attractive but is not a secret anymore. It was said that she had signed a blank check for our national prosperity during this trip and agreements for six billion dollars investments have been signed. However, if we look at these closely, we learn that these ambiguous agreements are memorandums of understanding or rather vague agreements and their implementation depends on U.S. wishes. Now we will have "to become tailors and sew the dress" to satisfy the United States. This could mean making three-sided cuttings [as published] on Pakistan's map. These Americans had made similar agreements worth $70 billion with the former Soviet Union President Gorbachev. However, the Soviet Union map was changed right during the beginning of these agreements. Has Madam Bhutto signed an agreement for such a dissection?

It has been emphatically said in the context of capital investments that Madam Bhutto has loudly announced that we want trade and not aid. In other words, we are not asking for help but for trade relations. We want to smash our beggar's bowl and start equal relations based on trade. However, her words in an interview given to a U.S. newspaper, "Pakistan is willing to play an Egypt-like role in South Asia, therefore, we should get similar lenient treatment," show the real color of her claim to trade and not aid. Then there is the reasoning: if Madam Bhutto is smashing her beggar's bowl and wants trade on equal terms then all she had to do was to use diplomatic sources and let the United States know that it has a good market in Pakistan for its products and technology. However, the strategy used during this

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whole period proves that she had been making requests. The United States had this attitude of consoling her and telling her to be patient and it would forward her request to the almighty Congress.

The other official announcement is that Madam Bhutto has clarified the seriousness of the Kashmir issue and had asked the United States to meditate and the United States had agreed to it. It wants to remove coolness between India and Pakistan. However, it very cleverly restricted this meditation by saying that wishes of both countries will be honored. In other words, the United States known as the champion of human rights and opposer of terrorism will not put any pressure on India to stop violating human rights and terrorism in Kashmir. It does not even have any interest in implementing UN resolutions. Now, here we are presenting our problem in the courts of this international terrorist (the United States). We are expecting loyalty from those who do not even know what the word loyalty means.

The third official announcement is that President Clinton is willing to be flexible on the Pressler amendment and the path for the delivery of F-16s that were already paid for and were held back because of Pressler amendment has been paved. Who does not know that the Pressler amendment has nothing to do with any deal made with a country requiring fulfillment of an agreement? The Americans are very skilled in this kind of fraud and skillful maneuvering. [passage omitted]

An interesting situation developed during her trip to the United States when Bhutto was called the Indian prime minister. The second interesting development was President Clinton used the word "referendum" during his talks with her. Her incompetent assistants who are ignorant of the English language started propaganda that President Clinton is willing to hold a referendum in Kashmir. Thank God for the literate journalist, Irshad Ahmed Haqqani, who warned them and asked, "Brothers, what are you doing sucking at the pit thinking it is a mango. President Clinton did not mean what you think he said. He was referring to the Indian government's plan to hold an election in Kashmir. He said that he would consider the opinion of the Kashmir people as an independent referendum." It does not matter whether most Kashmiris boycott these elections and only a few separatists express their opinion. The United States will consider it a referendum of the people. Thus, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto gained nothing from her trip to the United States. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

Government Buys Arms To Fight Tamil Tigers

BK2106091495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0811 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 21 (AFP) — Sri Lanka is buying Western arms to fight Tamil guerrillas who have resumed their separatist war, Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar announced Wednesday [21 June].

Western countries which had previously banned arms sales to Sri Lanka were now ready to sell to Colombo after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) pulled out of a truce in April, Kadirgamar said.

"We are seeking arms supplies and we have obtained or are in the process obtaining arms from friendly countries. There has been a shift in the policy of countries which previously put an embargo on on arms sales to us.

"There is a feeling among foreign governments that the Sri Lankan government cannot be expected to react passively and take lying down the assault launched," Kadirgamar said referring to recent talks with European leaders.

Since the LTTE withdrew from a three-month-long truce on April 19, the group has stepped up its attacks and killed 356 security personnel for the loss of some 375 of their own men, according to military estimates.

Kadirgamar said he was looking for European cooperation to tackle terrorism in Sri Lanka by cracking down on LTTE offices, particularly in France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Colombo was also concerned about the LTTE raising money in Europe to fund the conflict which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972, the minister told reporters.

However, he said since Colombo was yet to formally declare the LTTE an illegal organisation, foreign government's were unable to take action so long as the Tigers did not violate their laws.

"This is a matter that requires government attention. But if foreign government's declare the LTTE a terrorist organisation then they will have more investigative powers and will be able to come up with evidence.

"We will provide what ever evidence we have already," Kadirgamar said adding that the international community was convinced Colombo was sincere in its efforts to reach a political settlement.

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Thousands of Muslims Live in Fear After Threat

BK1906124195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thousands of Muslims in the Sri Lankan town of the east coast are now living in fear after Tamil Tiger guerrillas told them to leave by July 1st or face death. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] made the threat to leaders of the 60,000-strong community to move elsewhere, alleging Muslims were an obstacle to the formation of an independent Tamil homeland. In a town where the LTTE has been blamed for the massacre of 123 Muslims by Tigers, a group known for its ruthlessness, have cast a dark shadow. [sentence as heard] On Thursday [15 June] night, residents covered in their homes after hearing rapid bursts of gunfire in the town's outskirts, fearing an LTTE attack, but it turned out to be a false alarm. In 1990, nearly 100,000 Muslims were suddenly ordered by the LTTE to quit the guerrillas-held northern region. They were given just 48 hours to live in refugee camps.

Airport Security Increased After LTTE Threat

BK2106011295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It has been reported that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is now engaged in desperate action to sabotage the economy by scaring the international community away from Sri Lanka. The LTTE is now seriously weakened — militarily and morally.

A government communique issued yesterday said that the state has taken note of several reports that have appeared both in Sri Lanka and abroad following a threat by the Ellalan Force. The Ellalan Force is a front organization of the LTTE. They have threatened that they would attack the Colombo airport and are advising tourists not to visit Sri Lanka. The LTTE seems to find it difficult to accept that the international community had unequivocally condemned the unilateral action of the LTTE to break the peace negotiations.

The communique further said that such condemnation had been the result of the recognition by foreign governments of the sincerity of purpose shown by the Government of Sri Lanka throughout the peace process. Foreign states have commended the commitment to the protection of human rights as was evident in the recent enactment of stringent regulations by the government.

The government has reassured the public that all precautionary measures have been taken to ensure the safety of Katunayaka International Airport as well as other public places throughout the island. The government reiterates that the Katunayaka airport and the main cities of Sri Lanka are today as safe as they were over the past several years, or for that matter with similar places in other parts of the world in the face of dastardly terrorist groups. [sentence as heard]. Meanwhile, the Katunayaka Airport Authority has tightened security in and around the airport premises. All vehicles carrying passengers have been prohibited from proceeding beyond the main entrance to the airport. Sophisticated equipment for security checks on the passengers and baggages has been installed in the airport. Specially trained sniffer dogs to detect bombs and other explosive materials have also been employed.

At a news conference at the Katunayaka airport yesterday, the executive director of the Sri Lanka Airport and Aviation Limited, Air Vice Marshal P.M. Fernando, said that the parking lot has been shifted to a place away from the terminal building. He said that the cargoes too will be subjected to strict checking with modern equipment. Deputy Inspector General of Police Nalin Dewaguda, said that additional police teams have been deployed to check the vehicles entering the airport. The secretary of the Ministry of Media, Tourism, and Aviation, Edmund Jayasinghe, said that the bomb threat by the LTTE did not affect tourist arrival. He also said that there was no cancellation of any bookings in Sri Lanka.

Office To Pursue Action in Court on Extradition

BK1906130195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The attorney general's department will file action in the high court of Colombo within the next two weeks seeking the extradition of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran; [LTTE] intelligence chief, Pottu Amman; and women's wing leader, Akila; to India. These three are wanted by the law enforcement authorities in India in connection with the murder of Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi [and] 22 others in Madras in 1991. The formal requisition was made by the Indian Government to Sri Lanka through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo recently. The attorney general's department has studied the requisition and the legal position of the extradition process.

A senior legal officer of the department told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that though a bilateral extradition treaty does not exist between India and Sri Lanka, extradition is possible under the Commonwealth extradition treaty. However, the extradition order must be issued by a high court and the attorney general must initiate the legal procedure to obtain such

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an order for subsequent extradition. The attorney general must also approve that these three are prime suspects in a murder under the criminal code of India. However, the official cast doubt on the possibility of quick implementation of the order. He referred to a landmark extradition order issued by Colombo High Court in 1982 to extradite an Australian national to that country on fraud charges. The Australian was ultimately extradited only in 1992 after a long and complex legal battle which continued for about 10 years.

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